

From the Ministry Team

informing encouraging equipping



It seems to me that Christians all around are putting a greater emphasis on Advent this year - those four weeks in December where we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ's birth. Maybe it is because Christmas has been hijacked by merchandisers - although in America we now often see 'Happy Holiday' not 'Merry Christmas'.

John 10:10 has been much on my mind lately and I never thought before about it being a particularly 'Christmas' verse.

A thief comes only to rob, kill, and destroy. I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest.

In each week during Advent we can quietly reflect in turn on one of the four candles in the Advent wreath representing as they do Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. In the bustle of end of year activities and preparation for Christmas and summer holidays these are actually - along with sensible budgeting- the things that can most easily be stolen from us. The fifth candle of Advent is the one lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day which symbolises the coming of Jesus Christ bringing light to the world and life in its fullest.



A few bits and pieces to tidy away before Christmas.....



Oops. There was a typo in my new personal email address advised in the last newsletter. Correct address is chrissybrunt@outlook.com

Units were wrongly charged for Newrap postage recently. Julia at the GBNZ office has arranged credit notes and apologises for the error.

- Charmayne and I had a very busy time visiting Units in Franklyn, Waikato and Bay of Plenty last month. We love hearing your stories. Two I will share illustrate successful working relationships between church and Unit. One church had been out praying in a particular street and after this, girls who lived in that street joined i-girlz. Members of another church supply home baking for the girls' supper every week. What a treat!

- We also met up with the new National Commissioner and National Chaplain of the Girls' Brigade NZ. Charmayne and I hadn't been reappointed to the IFG Ministry Team at the GBNZ AGM in June so we just quietly worked away in the background on the new resources we had on the go until we could meet with the GBNZ National personnel to receive clarification of our positions. They seemed more than happy with the work we have been doing and asked for us to continue.

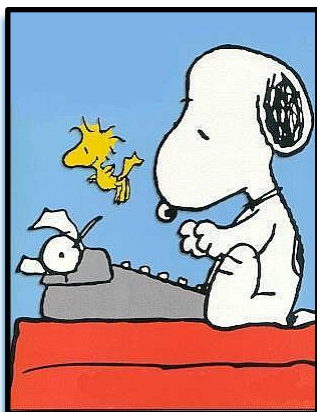
- We had three meetings with different BB ICONZ people - the National President, the National Director and the National Development Manager. These guys continue to give us much encouragement.

- We checked in with Leanne from Seeit and things seem to be ticking along nicely there. We gave Leanne a copy of the new Badge Booklet and she is going to make sure the badges as shown on the Seeit website replicate the booklet.
- We also attended the National Commissioner's Tauranga Roadshow as this coincided with our visit to the Bay.
- Last week I caught up with the folk at the Richmond, Nelson Unit and also the local Blenheim ones. Charmayne and I hope to be able to visit the Greater Auckland and the South Island Units early in 2018.



"Here's me grandma!"

Jennifer undertook the massive job of getting all the new resource material printed. All Units should have received these by now as well as any programme books that were ordered. Thanks to Charmayne for posting off the Auckland ones and Jennifer for organising the southern mail out. The rest we delivered by hand when we visited Units.



These holidays I am planning to rewrite the Anzac Badge programme and get it out before the start of Term One. This will include how to order an IFG flag with your Unit name on it in case you want one to parade on Anzac Day. Have also been asked for an easy reference manual as a leaders' "go to", so will be giving that some thought too, along with the updating of the Programme manuals.

Next year I am thinking of changing from writing a newsletter to sending short emails. Would this suit you better? It seems many people read their emails on their phones and the newsletter is too long for that.

Now a special mention of the leaders who are stepping down at the end of the year; we do acknowledge you particularly and trust your involvement in i-girlz, although at times challenging, will be something you can look back on with a true sense of accomplishment and many fond memories.



Charmayne joins with me in sending a huge thanks to all our wonderful leaders and support people otherwise for rolling out great life experiences for i-girlz throughout 2017. We wish you a time of refreshment over the coming holidays and a blessed Christmas to you and those you love and pray for.

Chris Brunt

Convenor IFG Ministry Team

Contacts

If you have any other questions/concerns/requests here is where you go:

Ministry Team

- For general inquiries/ feedback

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- For inquiries about events/camps etc Sending your RAMs forms

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