

# THE BUZZ



Presbyterian Church  
of Aotearoa New Zealand

AUGUST 2020

*"Your life as a Christian should make nonbelievers question their disbelief in God".  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

My sixteen-year-old daughter just finished a 10 day secular leadership course. She had a great experience, it really helped her make decisions on her future career. The course was well run, and included input from the likes of the PM. I was amazed looking at the content how similar it was to much of the leadership material used by PYM over the years.

In a similar vein, I am often aware when discussing social justice issues at youth group, many of the young people who have studied these issues at school do not naturally connect them to their faith in God.

This week I shared a quote attributed to Dietrich Bonhoeffer in the [PCANZ - Ideas for Resourcing Ministries](#) FB group:

"Your life as a Christian should make nonbelievers question their disbelief in God".

Although much of our secular society is based on Christian values and isn't bad, as youth leaders it is important that we are role modelling a radical faith, within a radical community, serving in a radical ministry. We need to be more than entertainers or programmers, just as 'iron sharpens iron,' we need to be journeying alongside the young people we disciple so they don't just hear but can understand it is God that impacts who we are and the decisions we make in our life.

In this month's Buzz newsletter, we have a variety of events and resources for you.

GORDON

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## Heartache 24 HR CALL TO PRAYER // 21-22 AUGUST 2020

New Zealand's teen suicide rate (15-19) is the worst in the developed world, it is so high it raises the global average (2017 statistics).

You are invited to participate in 24 hours of prayer on 21-22 August. It's really simple, just find a time to pray with your youth group or churches and log it on the Heartache website so others in your region can attend your prayer/worship meeting and stand with you. Timeline, resources and themes are on the Heartache website to give you some ideas.

[Read more](#)

## Matt Chamberlin

In case you have missed the news, Matt Chamberlin, National Youth Director, is recovering from a concussion he received during an accident a couple month's back. While he is recovering from this injury, he will be working just five hours per week. This will likely go on for several months.



If you need general or urgent youth ministry support, please contact me, Gordon Fitch, in the first instance. If you have been dealing with Matt on a project, please be aware that there will be a delay in getting a response.

Please join me in praying for Matt and his family as he works his way back to full health.



## We need your feedback on the Theological Education and Leadership Training Report



One of the great things about the Presbyterian Church is that we believe in the Priesthood of all believers. It means that everyone in our church can have their say. A team of people got asked last year to review the way our church does theological and leadership training.

This could have big implications for youth ministry in our churches.

We have put the proposals affecting youth ministry in this helpful webpage. We think it is important that it isn't just ministers and elders giving feedback on these proposals, so whether you agree or disagree with the proposals please give feedback.

[Read more](#)





## *International Youth Day*

The United Nations, since 2000, has declared 12 August as International Youth Day (IYD). This is to raise awareness about the issues young people in different countries care about the most. Youth organisations and organisations working with young people are invited to highlight the efforts of young people in creating a better world.

The World Council of Churches has put together an International Youth Day Toolkit to help youth workers prepare our churches to engage in youth issues.

[Read more](#)

## **E tu tangata Stand together Aotearoa**

E Tū Tāngata is a new programme from 24-7 YouthWork tackling one of New Zealand's biggest problems – our Tall Poppy Syndrome.

On the E Tū Tāngata website you can download their programme for free. The programmer will help your group reflect on the following three core principles:

- You have value
- We succeed together, and
- Others matter.

You may want to add a bit of Christian language and content to their guided conversations, but all in all, this would be an excellent curriculum for one session with your young people.



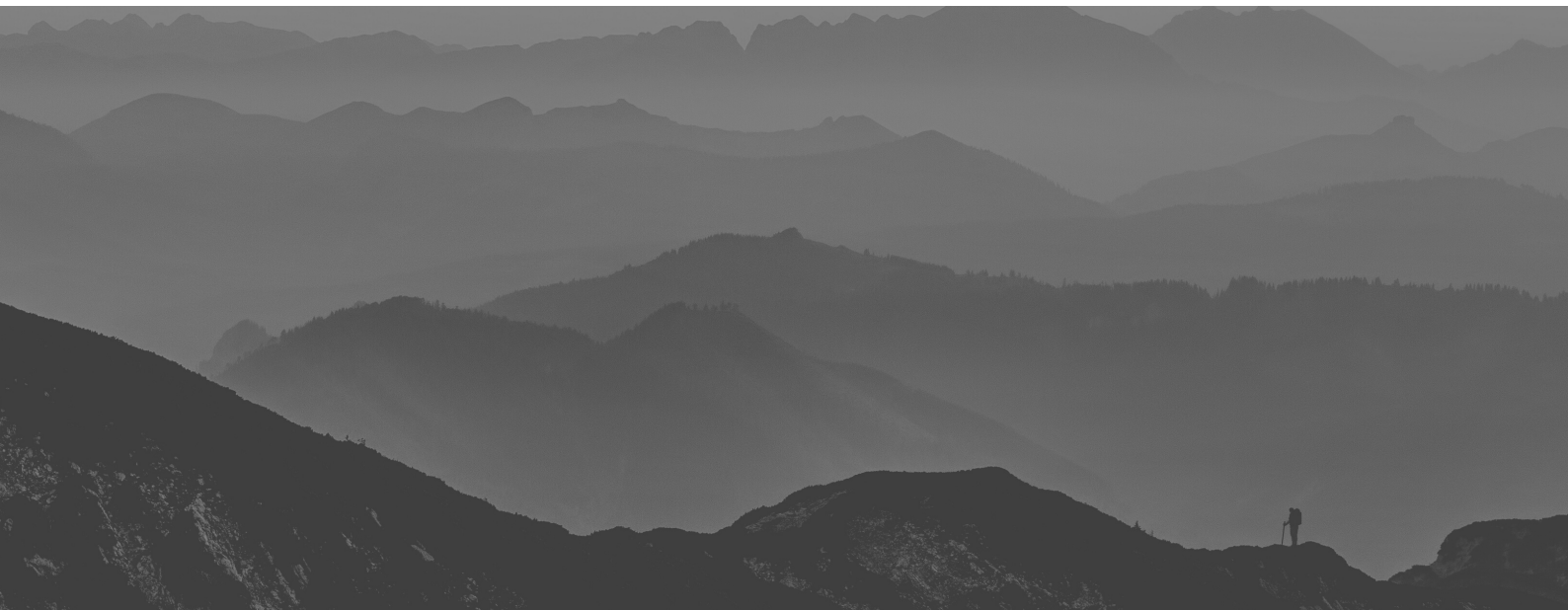
[click here for video](#)

# PYM

## Recommended Pay Scale

The PYM recommended pay scale for staff you are employing was recently updated due to the recent increase in the Living Wage. As of 1 September 2020, the living wage is set at \$22.20.

[Read more](#)



## ORIGIN coming to a city near you

8 Aug - Hamilton  
15 Aug - Auckland  
19 Sep - Christchurch  
26 Sep - Dunedin

Origin events are put on by Word of Life ministries, these events would be great for our evangelical churches. The vision for these events is that young people would step out in faith and invite their 'unsaved' friends so they can hear the Gospel.

This is what Word of Life says about these events.

“ORIGIN is a wild, crazy night of fun for youth, full of loads of activities where teenagers can go free-for-all and choose how they want to pack their night! Every teen that attends is bound to have an absolute blast! More than that, it is an exciting opportunity for them to hear the Gospel!”



***Matt Chamberlin***

National Youth Director

Mobile: 021 712-700  
Email: matt@pym.org.nz



***Gordon Fitch***

National Youth Manager

Mobile: 027 272-7716  
Email: gordon@pym.org.nz

<http://pym.org.nz/>

