


THE BUZZ



Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand

SEPTEMBER 2020

A black and white photograph showing the silhouettes of four people standing on a beach at sunset. They are holding up their phones to capture the bright sun, which creates a lens flare effect. The ocean is visible in the background.

*"You are the light of
the world."
Matthew 5:14*

In last month's Buzz we promoted E Tū Tāngata, a new initiative from 24-7 YouthWork tackling one of New Zealand's biggest problems – Tall Poppy Syndrome.

Last month while writing the article, I noticed they were selling merch on their website - and shock horror to anyone who knows my spending habits - I bought a hoodie to support the cause. Well I've worn the hoodie on several occasions recently, and to my surprise many people have asked me about the hoodie which lead to conversations about the Tall Poppy syndrome and the high youth suicide rate in our country. I was not expecting this to be the outcome of my purchase, but was delighted.

This experience reminded me about the importance of wearing your faith on your sleeve.

Last week, I was listening to the Youth Ministry Show podcast and a very interesting young person said this brutally honest statement: "I am uninspired with the walk of faith of my parents. They love God and are generous, but they lack mission and obedience that causes an inconvenience upon themselves. I think for a lot of young adults, they can think Christianity must not cost you anything".

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For me as a youth worker (and a parent) this was challenging: if our actions are not the same as our words, how do we pass on the faith? And worse than that, how do we share faith if we spend all our time at youth group playing games?

Matthew 5:14-15: “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.”

How are you doing reflecting the light of Christ in your life? Let me encourage you, no matter how your youth ministry is set up, to spend the time to open your life with a few young people, so they can see the cost of discipleship.

GORDON



The Girl On The Bridge

The Girl On The Bridge is a new kiwi documentary that tells the story of mental health activist Jazz Thornton. The movie follows her journey to overcome a suicidal past, to help others with their struggles and the personal cost of her advocacy. It is a response to our collective anguish about New Zealand’s suicide crisis and our desire to “do something”. Ultimately, this is a film about hope. It’s a film about redemption. It’s a challenge to all of us to try to understand.

The Girl On The Bridge is currently available in cinemas and online. But, you could arrange for the movie to be played in your church, or in a small group setting.

[Watch trailer](#)





Christian Tiktokers

If you have been looking for Christian content on TikTok, here is the top ten list you have been searching for! Each TikToker on this list is using their platform for Jesus:

- 1** Aatiqah
[@uhteakuh](#)
- 2** Elijah Lamb
[@elijah.lamb](#)
- 3** Hillary Caitlyn
[@whatsuphill](#)
- 4** Madison Day
[@_madisonday](#)
- 5** Abby
[@abby_was_bored](#)
- 6** Joe Navarro
[@joechristianguy](#)
- 7** Annalise Thompson
[@annaliseet](#)
- 8** Liv Pearsall
[@liv.breadstick](#)
- 9** Jack Boyer
[@__j.b__](#)
- 10** Drew Brenek
[@dbrenek02](#)

National Children and Families Position (part-time)

Do you love ministry with children and families? The Presbyterian Children and Families Ministry department is currently a 20-hour-a-week position.

[More info](#)

The PYM Internship



Study for free and get fantastic support with the PYM Internship

Beginning the journey into youth ministry as a vocational calling is an exciting, rewarding and challenging adventure. Our Church desperately needs theologically trained, skilled, youth workers who are committed to professional development and who see their ministry in vocational terms. It is our hope and prayer that the PYM Internship will see a new wave and generation of youth workers and ministers take up positions of leadership in our Church.

The **PYM Internship** offers fantastic support for anyone wanting to pursue a calling in ministry to young people through a Bachelor, Diploma or Certificate level training pathway. It is a collaboration between Presbyterian Youth Ministry (PYM), the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership (KCML), the local church, and a training provider. The PYM Internship combines formal academic ministry training through a recognised provider with an internship model of learning. Interns are placed in a local church, chosen in consultation with the intern, PYM and the local church where they learn.





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