



# BUILDING HEALTHY CORPS

## FIRST QUARTER 2017

Every day you get a lot of information – good ideas, new resources, important dates, what you need to know about ... It can all get a bit overwhelming, so we thought it might be helpful to combine what we can into one place – this newsletter.

We're planning to do this every three months and will also put most of this information on our Facebook page.

Hope this helps!

Alastair and Vanessa

Join the conversation  
& connect with others



Facebook.com/NZFTMissionResources

## GET EQUIPPED FOR MISSION

RECEIVE A T-SHIRT + RESOURCE GIFT PACK WHEN YOU ATTEND SOLDIERSHIP CLASSES IN 2017

SEE YOUR CORPS OFFICER FOR MORE INFO

### >> SOLDIERSHIP GIFT PACKS

The Territory is giving a gift pack to every person that attends soldiership classes in 2017! The gift pack will include a t-shirt, along with some other resources and is available for anyone that attends in 2017 (there are no restrictions around whether they enrol or not).

For more info or to order gift packs, email: [missionteam@nzf.salvationarmy.org](mailto:missionteam@nzf.salvationarmy.org)

### VALUES RESOURCES <<

We have released a new team devotions series, Living Our Values, to help you and your team understand and live out our seven values.

We also have a seven part sermon and Bible studies series.

Check them out and use them in your setting!

<https://intranet.sarmy.net.nz/index.php/strategic-mission-plan/mp/mission-resources/mission-plan-resources>



### CORPS CENSUS – *Less people coming, or people coming less?*

In years gone by, one of the best indicators of the health of a corps was the average congregational attendance trend. Growing congregations were good; declining congregations were bad. But is this still valid? Anecdotally, it seems that regular attenders are attending less often – perhaps heading away for more weekends, involved in competing Sunday activities or having to work. So a corps showing a decline in average attendance might actually be growing. How would we know?

To help us understand this trend, we'll be asking all corps to conduct a simple **Corps Census** in April. Basically, we want to know how many people you would consider part of your 'worshipping congregation'. If we do the same exercise next year, we'll have a better indication of this trend.

## IDEAS ... Services, outreach, socials

To reach people in our communities, it's great to link in with things that they are interested in. So here's a few big events coming up that you might like to use as a theme for a social event or meeting.

**Mothers' Day** is a great opportunity for outreach. What child or husband would say no when asked by Mum to come with them to church on Mothers' Day? We've produced a separate resource to help plan a great intergenerational Mothers' Day service.

There's two big sporting events coming up in June. The **America's Cup** is happening in Bermuda. It starts with the Louis Vuitton Cup (May 26 – June 12) to decide the challenger, and then the America's Cup is competed over the weekends of June 17-18 and June 24-25. The races are from 2pm-4pm Bermuda time which unfortunately will be from 5am to 7am Sunday and Monday our time. Perhaps consider a pre-church breakfast and watch the racing delayed.

The **British & Irish Lions Tour** will be the other main talking point in June. The tour starts on 3 June with games against the Super Rugby teams, and finishes with three evening test matches on Saturday 24 June, 1 July and 8 July.

## FREE RESOURCES

We've compiled our list of top FREE slides, videos and images for Easter and Mother's Day. Click the link below to check them out!

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B9ZahtdBKsNMNnQ4U0VLS3gwSjg>

## KEY DATES:

### March

5: National Children's Day: <http://www.childrensday.org.nz/>

13-14: Programme Conference

16-17: Further Faster Conference: [www.furtherfaster2017.com](http://www.furtherfaster2017.com)

25-26: Neighbour's Day: <http://neighboursday.org.nz/>

### April—July

April 14-17: Easter

May 14: Mother's Day (NZ), White Sunday (Tonga)

July 2: Covenant Renewal

## RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS

### Anthology—North Point

North Point church is the latest to be offering their group studies for free. Called Anthology, you can access the studies from either the website (<http://anthology.study>) or by downloading the app.

Two topics in particular are highly recommended – Community (for new small groups) and Five things God uses to grow your faith (their Five Catalysts).



### RightNow Media

Have you told your congregation about RightNow Media? Are you promoting resources for people to use in their small groups and at home? So far, 800 people are using RightNow Media, so with 8000 people attending our services, a lot of people are missing out.

To access this fantastic library of Christian videos for free, head to <https://www.rightnow.org/Account/Invite/NZFIJITONGA>



## WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON:

### What have we been doing?

- Values sermons, small group studies and team devotions resources
- Whole World Mobilising information pack
- Soldiership gift packs
- Corps and Divisional mission planning documentation

### What are we working on?

- Programme Conference, Further Faster conference and Planters Gathering
- National Planting Strategy
- Resources for setting up hubs