



BUILDING HEALTHY CORPS

THIRD EDITION 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.

Check out some great ideas and keep up to date with what's happening over the next couple of months.

Have a great Christmas and New Year!

Alastair and Vanessa

Join the conversation
& connect with others



Facebook.com/NZFTMissionResources

IDEAS ... Services, outreach, socials

Christmas and summer time is a great time to connect with your community. Here are some ideas for this summer:

Christmas Eve is an extremely popular time for people to visit church. Make the most of this—plan a special Christmas Eve service. You could partner with other local churches or schools, do something different like carols in the carpark, include live animals or create a Christmas themed photobooth. Utilise free advertising tools like Eventbrite, Eventfinda and Neighbourly to spread the word.

Christmas time is also great time to get out and bless your community. THQ does this every year by **taking it to the streets** - with a free BBQ on Cuba Street, carols, chocolate giveaways and people greeting with flyers about Christmas events. What could you do in your setting to connect with people? Check out our **Christmas Connection** ideas list attached for more ideas!

Corps social events are a great way to get people mingling with others and bonding outside of a programme or service. Make the most of the decent weather over summer and organise a **corps picnic** at a local park, have a **corps beach day** or book out the **local bowling club** and have a go at lawn bowls. Don't forget the BBQ!

AMPLIFY CHURCH SERVICE STREAM

Church services in January can be tricky with so many people away. Amplify is streaming its Sunday morning church service on 21 January so why not stream this at your corps! Stream starts at 10.30am and includes worship, prayer, testimony and a message.

Visit www.facebook.com/SallyFirezone closer to the time.

RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Eventbrite —online ticketing tool

Looking for a way to do simple ticketing for your event? Want to advertise your events/services wider than your corps newsletter?

Eventbrite is an online platform to help you build, manage and grow your events. If you're running a free event, Eventbrite offers free advertising, ticketing and registration systems. This is a great way to promote and manage church events - why not utilise this for Christmas or summer events in your setting?

For more info, head to www.eventbrite.co.nz



The Well Good News... - children's book

Bible Society have released a kids' story book for Christmas—*The Well Good News of Christmas*. This fresh retelling brings the Christmas story to life for all ages with fun, colourful illustrations and rhyming poem that kids (and adults) will love.

The book is available in packs of 10 for \$30 at Manna bookstore.

For more information, and to order head to:

www.manna.co.nz/index.php?route=product/product&product_id=123900



TOP CHRISTMAS IDEAS

The Mission Resources Facebook recently had a series of Christmas Connection ideas—ways to connect with people during Christmas.

Here are some of the top ideas + some extras:

- Update your corps/centre cover photo to Christmas themed, and make sure info about your Christmas activities and services is easy to find.
- No brass band or a small corps? Use CMD's Carols for Christmas playlist. See: <https://soundcloud.com/cmdnzft>

- Top picks for modern Christmas songs:
Seasons—Hillsong Worship
The Earth Stood Still—Future of Forestry
Behold the Christ—Creative Ministries Department
Oh Light—Gungor
- Place a Christmas tree in your foyer, Family Store or local mall and invite people to write a prayer request and hang it on the tree. Have corps members pray for these over the following weeks.
- See the full list of Christmas Connection ideas attached or check out www.facebook.com/NZFTMissionResources for more ideas!

FREE RESOURCES— Soldiership giftpacks

We are reaching the end of the year, which means there's limited time to complete soldiership classes in 2017 and be eligible for a free gift pack.

We have already sent out 270 packs! For more info and to get your final orders in, check out 'Soldiership Resources' on the Intranet.



>> CAREY NIEUWHOF IN NEW ZEALAND

We are excited to share Carey Nieuwhof (Connexus Church Canada) is coming to New Zealand in 2018 to share with paid and volunteer church leaders. You won't want to miss it!

Carey will be speaking in three locations:

Hamilton: 14th May 2018

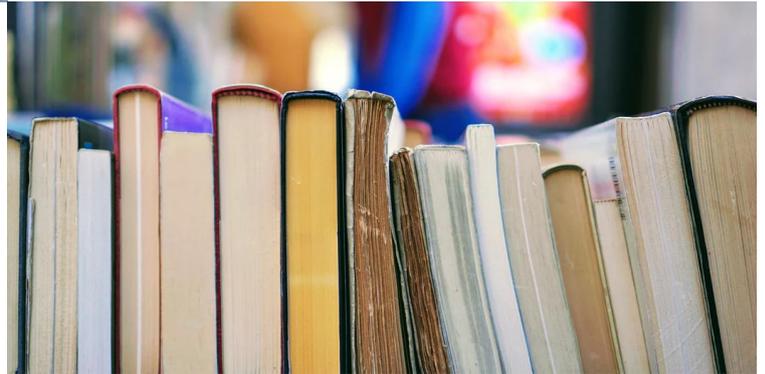
Wellington: 16th May 2018

Christchurch: 17th May 2018

RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS <<

We are updating our resource recommendation repository for the new territorial website and would love to hear what resources you have found helpful. From leadership and preaching to personal development, and service planning to small group resources—we want to know!

If you have any resource recommendations, please email: missionteam@nzf.salvationarmy.org



KEY DATES:

December

3: First Sunday of Advent

8: Commissioning

24: Christmas Eve

25: Christmas

31: New Year's Eve

January

1: New Year's Day

15—21: Amplify creative arts camp

21: Amplify church streaming

WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON:

What have we been doing?

- Doing mission together group templates
- Optional survey for church congregations
- Outreach accountability exercise for corps teams
- Final 2017 mission plan focus video
- Global leadership summit
- New website and template for corps

What are we working on?

- Church management system and electronic rolls for corps (*Connected replacement*)
- Amplify creative arts camp
- New believers packs
- National corps growth strategy



It's the most wonderful time ...to connect with your community!

Christmas is just around the corner! And the Christmas season is the perfect time to connect with our communities and share the incredible story of God's love with those around us.

Here are some ideas, examples and resources to help you spread the love of Christ this Christmas.

CONNECTING WITH KIDS & FAMILIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY:

- **Tree event:** create a Christmas tree forest or Christmas tree wonderland for families to come and explore. You could partner with local businesses to donate or decorate trees.
- **Party or event:** hold a Christmas themed party for families in your community - make it fun and big! It could be a birthday party for Jesus...
- **Childcare night:** hold some sort of night event just for kids that allows parents the freedom to head out and do the Christmas shopping or have a date night.
- **Live animals:** recreate the nativity scene as part of an event or service and include live animals - animals always attract families!
- **Be part of the scene:** have the nativity scene set up in your Family Store, church building or local shopping area where people can dress up as part of the nativity scene and have their photo taken.
- **Carol service:** put on a carol service at your corps/centre, or partner with a local school or other local churches and host a night of carols. Make sure to create some atmosphere!
- **Email schools and daycare centres:** whatever you put on, contact local schools and daycare centres with the info - they are usually happy to advertise kid-friendly events in the area.

CONNECTING WITH THE OFTEN FORGOTTEN IN YOUR COMMUNITY:

- **Senior's party:** hold a special Christmas event just for seniors in your community. This could be part of your usual Companion's Club or Home League, or a special one-off event.
- **Community meal:** host a community Christmas meal and invite people that may not get to experience this otherwise. Make it really special; decorate, have delicious food and include some special elements (small gifts, entertainment).
- **Retirement homes:** host a morning tea at a local retirement home. Get a small brass band together or come up with some other entertainment, crafts or items that could bless that community.
- **Gift shop:** collect donated gifts (or purchase items) that can be gifted to families in your community. Invite families to come to your 'Christmas shop' and personally choose the gifts for their family.
- **Christmas workers:** ask members of your corps to write thank you Christmas cards for shift workers like the Police, fire brigade, hospital workers, service station attendees etc. You could even include baking!
- **Longest Night:** host a 'longest night' (Blue Christmas) service for those in your community that struggle this time of year due to loneliness, bereavement, or past events linked to Christmas. Focus the service around music, prayer and Scripture that bring comfort.

CONNECTING WITH THE LOCALS IN YOUR COMMUNITY:

- **Markets/events:** Why not partner with something already happening like a market, or have a presence at an established event? Maybe a brass band, carol singers, free face painting or get creative!
- **Prayer tree:** place a Christmas tree in a prominent area like your foyer, Family Store or local mall and invite people to write a prayer request and hang it on the tree. Ask people from your corps to pray for these over the following weeks.
- **Gift wrapping:** have a gift wrapping stall at a local shopping area. Have info about your service times/events and have friendly people willing to chat and wish people a happy Christmas.
- **Hide baby Jesus:** over the month of December, hide 'baby Jesus' around your neighbourhood. This could be hiding lots of small objects like stones painted with a baby on them, or it could be an advertised, larger scale scavenger hunt event.
- **Cards:** give out blank Christmas cards to every member of your congregation and encourage them to write a message and give these to people in your community. This could be anyone; neighbours, supermarket attendant, doctor or school teacher.
- **Sellotape standoff:** everyone needs sellotape at Christmas time, so why not gift it to people as they shop at the mall or walk down your main road. Include a small flyer with the roll with your Christmas event/service details on them.

*In everything you do to connect with people over Christmas, think **what's next?** What's the next event that this family might want to attend (think summer time!)? What's the next Sunday series in your calendar - will this appeal to visitors? What would encourage this person to come again, explore their faith at home or make a personal connection with someone in your setting?*