

## Synod AGM presentation 2010

Just to highlight a couple of things that I wrote in my report...

The Going Somewhere Youth Leadership Development camp was scheduled for this week in Queenstown but unfortunately I had to cancel it once again because I only received 3 registrations and they were all from one church. I must say that I was pretty disappointed as I really do believe in the value of the course and have seen the good things that have come from them.

However, the launch of the youth leaders networking breakfasts was a huge success with about 40 people attending both breakfasts which I was very happy about. I am so excited about the unity amongst the youth leaders that is brewing in the area, and what we have the potential to achieve as a result of that unity. However we are not there yet. We still have the majority of churches in the Synod area NOT connected to our youth network. I stand here today asking you the Ministers and Elders of your churches to help me, to help you. Help me, help your youth ministries and your youth. I understand that the world is full of 'busy' these days and in our churches it's no different. It's easy to employ a youth worker or appoint a key youth leader and then leave them to do their thing so you can tick the box and say that the youth are sorted and move on to the next thing. My plea to you is to stay connected with your youth leaders and ensure that they are supported in what they do, challenged to keep developing what they do and are connected to a bigger picture or network. I can only work with the youth leaders and youth ministries that I know about 😊

The benefits of being connected to the bigger picture of Synod and even the National Presbyterian Youth Ministry is...

- your youth leaders have access to training and leadership development opportunities,
- a standard of practise of youth work that will bring guidance/boundaries/safety and professionalism to the work they do
- a network of other leaders to share ideas and resources with,
- support and fellowship of people to share the joys and struggles of ministry.
- Camps and events organised for you to bring your young people to

A couple of things specific things that I would like to draw your attention to now are:

- Monthly Email Update
- Networking Breakfasts:
  - 14<sup>th</sup> May in Dunedin
  - 15<sup>th</sup> May in Gore
- Regional Connect Training Day:
  - Saturday 4 September at Calvin Church in Gore

The challenge that I would like to put out to all of you today is to go back to your churches and ask your youth leaders if they are connected with the Synod Youth Network – or any network for that matter. If they are not, then encourage or even make sure that they DO get connected and that they get involved in the opportunities available to them. Give them my card or point them in the direction of the website so they can subscribe to my monthly updates and then they can be kept up-

to-date with everything that is going on. Ensure that they are receiving training and have opportunities to develop their skills **each year.** Check that they are well supported in their roles and that they are not isolated or struggling. It is so important that our young people are safe and well cared for, and that is only going to happen if our youth leaders are cared for and are equipped and well trained for their role whether it is voluntary or employed. My role as the Synod Youth Coordinator along with Cheryl's role as Kids Friendly Advisor and Bruce as Mission Advisor, are a gift to your churches. But just like at Christmas and birthdays there's no point leaving the presents wrapped up and looking pretty. We are gifts that want to be used!!! So please use us and get involved in what we have to offer.

Thank you,

Stephanie Redhead  
Synod Youth Coordinator