



Word of Life
New Zealand

THE **MISSION** OF
WORD OF LIFE
IS TO
EVANGELISE
AND **DISCIPLE**
YOUTH IN
PARTNERSHIP
WITH LOCAL
CHURCHES

A LEADER'S HEART

Many things influence our lives. There are obvious things like family, school, friend, sports teams, church, the career we choose, or how much is in our bank account. All have played a part in shaping my life today. However, apart from Jesus Christ, no one has shaped my life more than certain individual people have. There were times when I was unaware of how they were influencing me or even that they *were* influencing me, and my life was impacted.

I want to share three ways these 'mentors' influenced me, and to encourage you to think about how you might be a positive influence on, or mentor to, others.

1 | THEY DEMONSTRATED UNCONDITIONAL LOVE to me. One way they showed this love is that they were prepared to go out of their way to visit me. When Liz and I were farming quite a distance from a reasonable sized town and off the beaten track, they still took the time to come out and say "hi". They made an effort even though it cost them. I journey with many young people who are crying out for someone to love them unconditionally. Many feel judged or guilty, so to know the unconditional love of another human is so important.

1 John 3:18 "Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."

2 | THEY GAINED MY TRUST. I have journeyed through some tough things and was not about to share them with anyone I could not trust. Trust had to be gained. I could only divulge the hurts or aches of my heart once I felt safe with these mentors. Trust is important. It makes us feel secure, it gives confidence and it gives hope. On the flipside, when trust is broken the damage takes a lot of healing. In my life there was a lot of damage in this particular situation and it took two years to regain an important friendship because of that. I journey with several young people who are crying out for someone they can trust. Trust means treating the other person with respect. I choose not to divulge information they share with me. Guard your mouth.

Proverbs 8:8 "All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them."

3 | THEY LISTENED to me. This is so important! God gave us two ears and one mouth. So often, we think that an influencer has to talk. No, the first thing to do is to listen, and listen carefully. Sometimes we listen so we can think of what we want to say next. Please don't. Listen so you can understand and hear the heart of the person speaking to you. Listen carefully so you know the next question you need to ask, rather than what statement you want to make.

In closing, being a godly influence is one of the great privileges of the Christian experience. Respect that position. You have influence with others whether you realise it or not. Look for ways you can be a mentor to build positively into someone else's life. Age is no barrier if you remember the three things I have mentioned above. I personally know young people all around the country who would love to meet up with someone who is willing to be authentic and whom they can trust to help them grow to be like Christ.

2 Timothy 2:2 "...and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."

A Leader's HEART

- Demonstrates unconditional love
- Gains trust
- Listens

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TOM McIVOR
Director

INTERNS



2017
WORD of LIFE TEAM

We are excited to have six new interns join the team this year.

Mikey Cooper | 17 | Dunedin

When I went on Youth Reachout 2016, we started the trip by writing trip goals. One of my goals was deciding what to do next year. Throughout the trip as I watched the Word of Life interns, heard about their Bible study and as I talked to other leaders, I realised I wanted to spend the next year growing my knowledge of the Bible. Choosing to do an internship with Word of Life seemed like the perfect opportunity to achieve my goal. I am motivated to spend this year learning as much about the Bible as possible so that I can study and interpret it correctly and learn how to apply it to my everyday life. Getting to know *who* my God is, is another important goal. Looking forward, I want this year to be characterised by diligently spending time every morning with God in His word and praying intentionally and often.



Blake Hanna | 19 | Tauranga

My decision to do the internship was made a couple of months after I went on Youth Reachout last year. I wanted to enrol in Police College but knew I needed more 'life experience' to meet entry requirements. That's when my mentor from Youth Reachout suggested that an internship with Word of Life would be good for me. I believe it is the best way to spend this year, and am looking forward to gaining new skills and understanding that will help me make a better-informed decision about joining the police next year. At the end of my internship, I want to look back and see that I kept my commitment to spend quality time reading my Bible every day.



Emma | 18 | Auckland

At the end of last year as I was praying a lot about what to do after school, an internship with Word of Life through Pathways kept standing out. I am certain this is where God wants me and am excited about the year ahead. There is a great opportunity to come alongside girls at Word of Life events throughout the year and especially in my small group to encourage them to spend time with God and work on their relationship with Him. I pray that God would use me to impact others for Him. One goal this year is to improve my ability to evangelise. Broadening my understanding of the gospel will help me not be afraid of getting a hard or tricky question and will help me reach more people.



INTERNS

Damien | 24 | Hamilton



There is so much for me to gain through doing my internship with Word of Life this year and two areas I'm looking to grow in are a stronger knowledge of how to share the gospel, and developing my personal relationship with God. I'm also looking forward to working within the team here at Word of Life, building up the youth group at my local church, and being better equipped to disciple and build-up youth and other fellow Christians. My main goal for this year is to become a man of God who thrives on sharing God's love through actions and words, and helps others on their journey with God through counselling and support.

Craig Jamieson | 21 | Dunedin

For me, this year is about having the time and training to unpack God's word in such a way that my faith is made stronger, to trust in God through all things and to see Him grow in me the confidence and skills to communicate the gospel clearly. The Pathways Internship interested me because it involves 50% ministry to go along with the 50% study. I am looking forward to applying all that I will be learning. The biggest opportunity to do this is within the youth group I am working with all year. One goal I have is to set an example of what it looks like to have a growing relationship with God and so affect others to desire the same. Whether it is leading someone through the first step of salvation or challenging them to desire godly change day by day, I want to encourage youth to be growing in their relationship with God.



Sarah Jamieson | 18 | Dunedin



As I study, I desire to deepen my understanding of the Bible, not just for knowledge's sake, but so I can grow in my relationship with God as I get to know Him better. Through the Youth Ministry course at Pathways, I am also hoping to gain the tools I need to be able to relate to youth in order to share the gospel in an impactful way. On the ministry side of the internship, I am praying for God to grow my confidence as I have opportunities to share the gospel with a variety of people, help lead lessons at Bible in Schools and youth group, and live my faith out in front of others.

BEACH MISSION

New Years | Coromandel

Over the New Year's break, a team of people had the privilege to go to Hot Water Beach Holiday Park and run a holiday programme at the campground there! It was such an encouraging time and we saw many children touched by the gospel. During the daily programmes, we ran games, taught memory verses, performed dramas and shared from God's Word. Many of the children had never heard the gospel before and we pray that the seed planted will produce fruit. We rejoice that two children decided to make Jesus their Lord and Saviour!



LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRY

Our annual Leadership Conference was held early in February. The highlight this year was having Mike Calhoun come to speak along with his wife Betsi. Mike and Betsi serve with Word of Life in the United States and have been involved in youth ministry for over 40 years.

Mike came well prepared to share with us his learnings and research on the “Next Generation” of young people we minister to. We all gained better insight into how we can connect with the youth of today and be effective in serving alongside them. Mike’s ultimate challenge was for us to see this generation as the one with potential to start the next “great awakening”, or spiritual revival.

We had close to 100 youth and children leaders attend. Along with Mike’s challenges we had a wide variety of elective sessions which were designed to help equip leaders in different areas of ministry. As always, it was an encouraging time when leaders came together to become better equipped and more effective in ministry.



LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE | HAMILTON

Matt & Jess | Youth Leaders | New Plymouth

“Matt and I really enjoyed the Leadership Conference and thought it was definitely worth the drive up! The speaker was fantastic; really engaging and spoke on a topic that we found relevant to us as youth leaders. His module on discipline was really great too and I could have listened to a whole day just on that topic.”

Ruth | Sunday School Teacher | Manurewa

“A great way to start the year. I feel much more confident as I start teaching Sunday School after being to the Leadership Conference.”

If you desire further training for your leaders or are interested in resources for youth group lessons and Quiet Times, please contact our Local Church Ministry Team

CHARLES & TINA—FIJI

The beginning of this year has seen our family grow to eight with three boys and a cousin joining us. Tina's sister-in-law and family have been staying as well. The past few weeks have not been easy as our family got infected with a dengue-like virus which included vomiting, fever, stomach ache and pain in the joints plus boils which jumped from one person to the next. We praise God for the four new members of our family who took care of us while we were so sick. Everyone except for Elizabeth have since recovered from the boils; she is still getting injections and tablets from the hospital. Please pray for Elizabeth that she will recover so she can go back to school. She hasn't been to school for a month now. We are thankful that little Philip wasn't too bad, he's an active boy and continues to keep everyone busy and entertained.



MINISTRY | FAMILY



We had a good turnout during our January sports outreach and during our leaders meeting. Last month, we had a blessed time in the west for leaders training, Olympians workshop, youth ministry, as well as the opportunity to minister in a church on a Sunday morning. Two weeks ago, I had the privilege to speak in our church and last weekend God opened the door for me to minister to my family on Moturiki Island during my uncle's funeral. This month we will be doing leadership training in Ba and Suva and next month we are hoping to travel to the north to do more leadership training for youth leaders. Life is very busy and there is a lot of requests for our help for training and discipleship. Please pray for wisdom.

Thank you for your commitment and for all your prayers and support.

- Good health
- Wisdom
- Elizabeth's health – full recovery
- Completions of our toilet and bathroom/rooms for the boys
- Ministry - visitations and trainings
- Praise God for the good outcomes from ministry

PRAYER



EVENTS

Gore | Matamata | Cambridge

March saw the start of our event season and we are looking forward to all the events ahead of us, trusting that God will do amazing things in the lives of young people all over New Zealand. Over 200 teens and young adults joined us for the indoor football tournament in Gore and the touch tournament in Matamata. On April 8th, we ran an Olympian Games event for intermediate-aged students in Cambridge. These events have been a lot of fun, especially with our “Dress to Impress” theme competition, which is Spots ‘N Stripes this year. We have eight more events this year and cannot wait to see lives changed as a result of the gospel being shared. So far, we have seen 10 young people respond to the gospel, six for the first time!



DATES

SAVE the DATE so you don't miss out on an Event near you!

