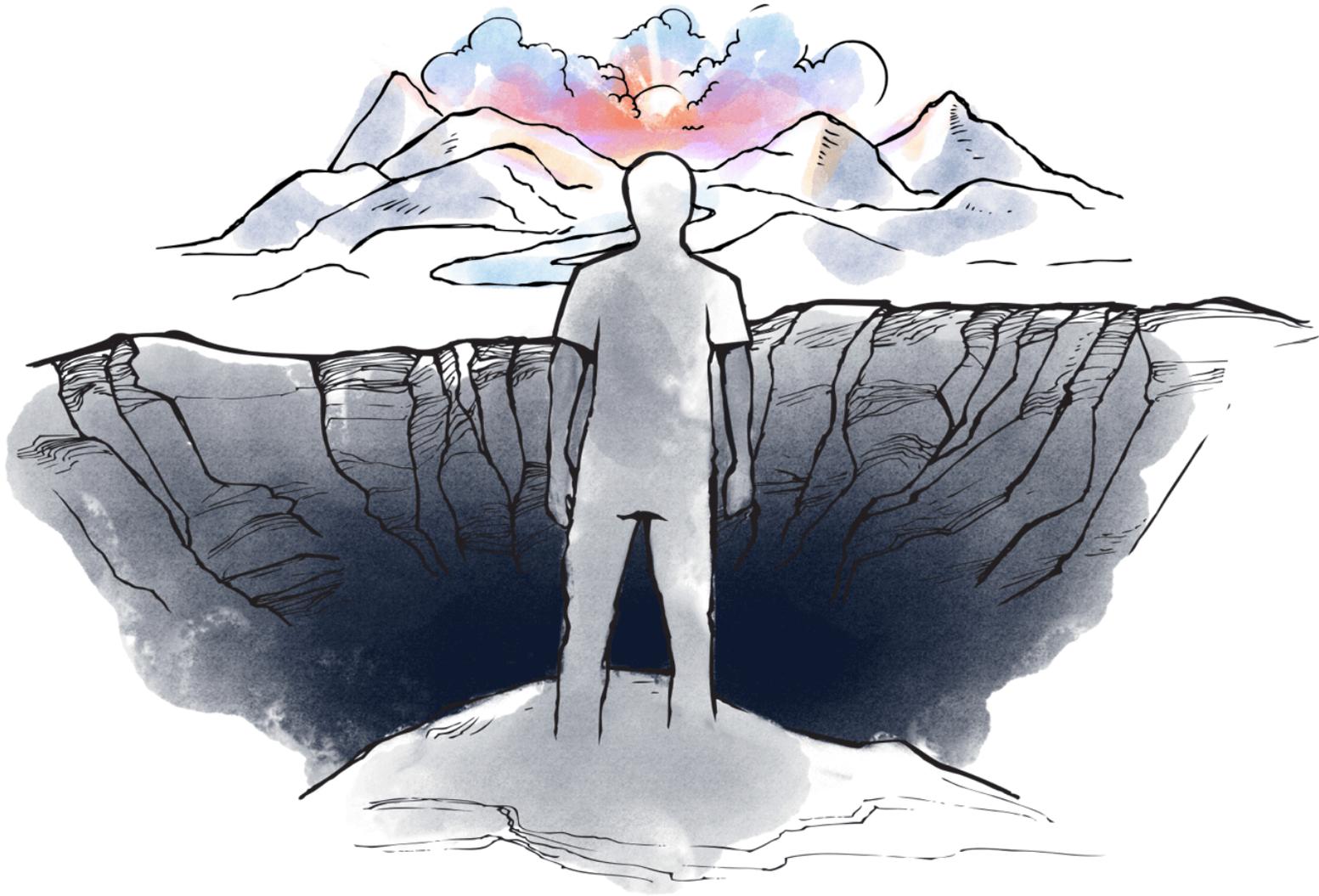


# Connections



*For the wages of sin is death  
but the gift of God is eternal life in  
Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Romans 6:23*



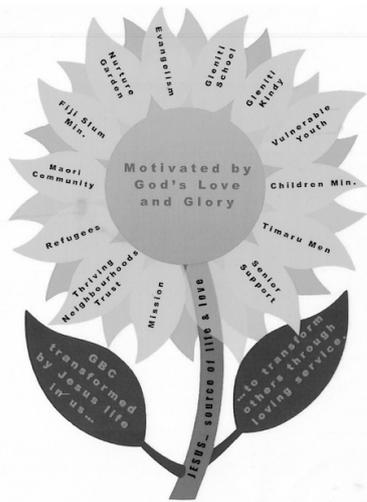
**OUR MISSION**



**Connecting You With Life**

GBC exists to connect all people to Jesus, the source of life. We seek to create a vibrant all-age community of believers who are passionate about sharing God's transformational love and Word with people in our community, city, nation and world.

**OUR VISION**



**CONNECT**

- 58 Gleniti Road, Timaru 7910
- 03 686 2829
- gleniti.baptist@xtra.co.nz
- www.glenitibaptist.org.nz
- facebook.com/glenitibaptist

**GATHERINGS**

10am Sundays  
 Gleniti Baptist Church  
 58 Gleniti Road, Timaru  
 All Welcome

**Pastor's Pen** Wendy Geerling



There's a saying about when we 'assume'. It has something to do with donkeys and it's pretty good advice. The Church (globally) is waking up to this message and reflecting on all the blind assumptions we've been making over the past 50 or so years. We now realise that 'build it and they will come' is a false assumption for this time and place. We now realise that church culture and Christian values are no longer mainstream.

We now realise that many people in the community have never stepped foot inside a church building and have no idea what really goes on behind those walls. We now realise that Christian language and practices are completely foreign to most of our neighbours.

And of course, our neighbours will have their (false) assumptions about Christians and the church too.

Our challenge now is to put these revelations into practice. We need to find new, culturally-appropriate ways of introducing God and spiritual things into everyday conversations? Let's run a 6-week training called Activating God Space: Where Spiritual Conversations Happen Naturally. We want to demonstrate the impact of Christian values on current socio-political topics? Let's hold public forums and hear from Christian and non-Christian experts. It may be the only opportunity for our neighbours to hear a Christian perspective on the topic. We want to demonstrate that Christians aren't blue-headed aliens and that we actually support those working hard for the health of our local community? Let's gift the teachers at our local primary school and kindy with a yummy morning tea.

These are just the first small steps we've taken in response to the changing reality in which we find ourselves living. We must not stop here. We must, collectively and individually, continue to ask prayerfully, 'What's next?' What steps, big and small, do we need to make to be effective in our mission as the church in our time and place? Let's keep this question at the forefront in our prayers and conversations.



**GBC FAMILY CAMP**  
 February 2021

# Close Up

Norm Pavelka

I grew up in a small country district called View Hill near Oxford, Canterbury. As a family we attended church once a month at the local school hall. Mum was a Presbyterian and Dad a Catholic. I attended Christchurch Boys' High School as a boarder and attended church on Sunday's. I believed there was a God but didn't understand much about Him. I was confirmed in 1948, more to please Mum.

I served my apprenticeship as a fitter with Andersons Ltd in Christchurch then joined the Union Steamship Co. to gain my Marine Engineers tickets in Steam and Motor. When I came ashore after five and a half years, I worked first as shift engineer for the Canterbury Frozen Meat Co. then for the Riccarton Carpet Co. as Assistant Engineer.

Towards the end of my time at sea, a family introduced me to Joy, my wife-to-be. I was impressed with this very capable young woman who lived on the family farm in Rolleston. Joy helped her Dad by driving the tractor for haymaking etc., and she also had her HT license.

We were married in Christchurch and bought our first home there. We had three children; Cathy (who passed away in 2013), Graeme (who now lives in Vietnam) and Mark (who now pastors here at Gleniti Baptist Church).

Then we moved to Riwaka near Motueka where I purchased a small engineering business - welding shop, servicing farmers specialising in tobacco machinery, between 1965 - 1981. Here I was part of the Riwaka Presbyterian Presbytery.

We then purchased a small hill country farm up the Motueka valley (like old MacDonald), raising beef, pigs, goats and sheep. We got out of pigs as there was no money in them. This high-country farming did not provide a great income so I also got a job as maintenance engineer at Tapawera Forest Service. The hills got steeper as we got older, so we moved to a hobby farm and then 5 years later finally retired into Nelson.

Joy and I have been married for 64 years; Joy is now being cared for at Talbot Hospital. These days I enjoy wood turning (I belonged to the Waitaki Wood Turning Guild), and playing chess (I won the GBC intermediate Chess Trophy in 2020).

Over the past five years, I have come to think more about God and what's involved; it has been a slow process. I became interested in near-death experiences. It started when I read the book "90 Minutes in Heaven" by Don Piper. It's the account of a man who died for 90 minutes and was pronounced clinically dead. These experiences are far more prevalent than we realise - there are thousands of people throughout the world who speak out about their experiences and many more who keep quiet for fear of being ridiculed. What impressed me most was no matter what the culture or religion Jesus features prominently in all these near-death experiences. That's what got me.

Over the years a major stumbling block for my Christian faith was the verse John 14:6, *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

I couldn't understand how a loving God could allow people in the Amazon for example who hadn't heard about Christ to have no chance to hear about him resulting in eternal death. It didn't seem right or fair to me.



But I now believe God will show them the truth in some way. I now understand how Muslims are having similar experiences to Christians, very vivid encounters with Jesus. Many people who have these experiences, find that their lifestyles change dramatically for the better.

Learning about these testimonies and experiences has brought scripture alive to me and I would love to share more about this subject with anyone who is interested.

Some great resources include:

### **"90 Minutes in Heaven" by Don Piper**

Don Piper meets with a car accident and is pronounced dead. But 90 minutes later, he is brought to the emergency room and is revived to life. This is based on his actual experience of his momentary life after death.

### **"Imagine Heaven" by John Burke**

An inspirational journey through the Bible's picture of heaven, coloured in with the real-life stories of heaven's wonders. John Burke compares gripping stories of near death experiences to what Scripture says about our biggest questions of heaven: Will I be myself? Will I see friends and loved ones? What will it look like? What is God like? What will we do forever? What about children and pets? This book will propel readers into an experience that will forever change their view of the life to come and the way they live life today. It also tackles the tough questions of heavenly reward and hellish near-death experiences. Anyone interested in near-death experiences or longing to imagine heaven more clearly will enjoy this fascinating and hope-filled book.

My journey to faith was not one dramatic moment but rather a slow process throughout my life time. My faith and relationship with Jesus has never been stronger or more real than they are today.

John 14:2 *My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?*

# Women's Ministry *Rosie Cross*

## **Cindy Vida - *Walking through the fire***

We were privileged to have Cindy visit GBC on 19 and 20 February. On the Friday night, after an inspiring worship session, approximately 70 women listened, riveted, as Cindy shared her testimony of God's goodness and provision in her life.

Having grown up in a Christian home, married and travelled to Ireland with her husband and child, Cindy's life was good. They found work, Baby No. 2 was born and after a year they decided to travel Europe in a camper van, before returning to NZ. In France, her husband was brutally attacked and sustained an undiagnosed brain injury. They returned to NZ, but her husband's behaviour changed, and life became very, very difficult for the family.

On Saturday, Cindy provided an insight into her journey and what she had learnt. Her wealth of knowledge from personal experience and learning over the years, poured out. Such wisdom, compassion and understanding flowed from her in a down-to-earth way, that the audience was impacted on many levels, from tears to laughter.

A delicious morning tea was enjoyed and the ladies caught up with old friends and new.

In the workshop, the subjects covered were developing and maintaining healthy relationships and mental health—how to support your own and others around you. Much was learned.

Women from around South Canterbury and from as far away as Invercargill came together, laughed, cried, shared and prayed for each other, and God moved.

Thank you to our amazing team of helpers who contributed to making this event possible:

pray-ers, singers, musicians, those who prepared and presented food, our artists who painted the lovely canvasses, our florist; and especially to Brian Purcell who braved a mass of females to provide the necessary sound system.

Our team feel very strongly that this is a catalyst for a new wave. God is moving, empowering and encouraging women to join together across churches. As we do so, more healing will be released.

There are plans in the pipeline for another event, with a different emphasis, in the near future. Stay tuned...

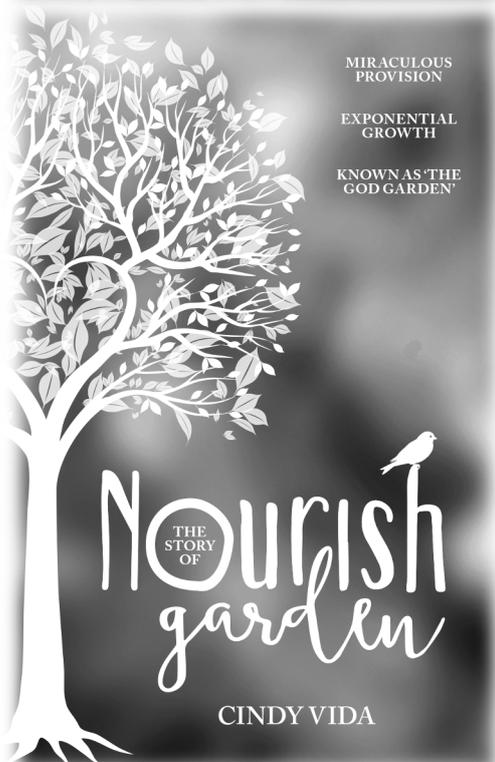
If anyone would like to buy a copy of 'Walking through the fire', I have a few copies available.

## **Nurture Garden**

On Friday evening the 12<sup>th</sup> March the combined muscle of GBC Boys' Youth and Men's Group pulled together to expand another quadrant of the Nurture garden. The formula for the no-dig, minimal-weed garden consists of four layers:

- 1) Wet cardboard (bottom layer)
- 2) A Sprinkle of Blood and Bone
- 3) Thick layer of animal manure
- 4) Thick layer of pea-straw (top layer)

We had a lot of fun together and thanks for the yummy supper afterwards Rosie and Neville. We look forward to doing it again in the future.



# Creative Space

## Not Dead!

Not Dead!

For one immortally born,  
can never die.

This earthly shell,  
may 'give up the ghost'.

But the 'ghost' goes on.

As in a good book,  
one chapter closes.

But the story continues,

in a new chapter.

Excitement building,  
a real page turner.

Plot thickens,  
to the climax,

the big reveal where our stories will reunite.

No, not dead,

Alive!

©Treena Davis  
08/02/2021

## What Am I?

fragile

'strong as an ox'

vulnerable

'tough as old weeds'

determined

'just a wisp of a thing'

humble

'large as life'

majestic

'small beginnings'

LIFE

© Treena Davis  
08/02/2021

## Things to Make and Do with Dust and Water

Water makes wine,

a good year that one.

Dust and spittle pancakes,

make blind eyes see.

Writing in dust,

destroys evil conspiracy,

and frees its prisoner.

Two simple ingredients,

that become much more than the sum of  
their parts.

©Treena Davis  
08/02/2021

## TIME FOR A FUNNY STORY Pulpit Points

As part of his training for the ministry, a colleague of mine was required to take a service in an unfamiliar church. Needing something to calm his nerves, he found a bolt jutting into the pulpit, and during the service continually played with it. Much to his relief, the congregation seemed most attentive.

After the service, a young deacon approached him and remarked how well he'd done, considering the state of his nerves. "How did you know I was nervous?" my colleague asked.

"Well," replied the deacon, "during the whole of your delivery, the cross bolted on the front of the pulpit was rotating like a propeller."

Dave Bishop, Readers Digest



As we draw near to Easter a cross has gone up on the church roadside to engage with our community. Over this period there will be messages to encourage and prepare people's hearts toward the good news of Jesus death and resurrection. We pray this will be an effective witness and that many will draw closer to God.

# Youth Dara Morton

Over the last few months the youth have been working hard on multiple fundraisers, the first being Gleniti's Got Talent a fundraiser for Fiji, and then more recently the Youth Auction and Sausage Sizzle raising funds for Easter Camp. Gleniti's Got Talent was held in February, run by Bianca and Dara. It was a night filled with lots of talent from Poems to Songs, Trombone pieces to some interesting make-up application, and a very weird song about a duck!

We also had the opportunity to have some awards handed out. These were:

The Musicality Award went to Dale for her Piano Pieces, the Comedic Award went to 'A Date With Steve' skit by Kathryn and Karalyn (featuring Steve), the Captivating Award was split between; 'An Autumn Echo' a spoken word poem by Stephen Purcell, and 'My Love has Gone Across the Sea' song by Hadassah and Bianca, the Baby Shark Award for Youthfulness was awarded to the Youth Group for their performance of 'The Duck Song', and Rae took out both the God at Centre Award and the People's Choice Award for her lovely trombone rendition of 'You Raise Me Up'.

Bianca and I would like to thank everyone for their help, including: our MCs Kieran and Daniel, our judges Grant, Deanna and Diane, our tech team Brian, Ryan and Isaac, our kitchen helpers Wendy and Janis, our greeters Mark and Anne, our support team Steve, Brendan, Wendy, Mark, and thanks of course to everyone who was able to come along.

This was a very successful night as we were able to raise over \$500 for the Mission Work in Fiji by Charles and Tina.

In more recent weeks, we've held the Youth Auction, which was our first fundraiser for Easter Camp. In this we 'sold' our youth - well, we sold their skills. From cake-baking to car-washing, garden work to house-cleaning, even providing a three-course meal, and so much more. We would like to thank our amazing Auctioneers, Steve and Kieran, for their help, as well as everyone who supported us by bidding and buying our youth. Through this event we raised over \$1000!

We also recently held a Sausage Sizzle after church. This was also really well supported and we raised over \$270, also for Easter Camp.

Wendy and I, as well as all the youth want to put out a HUGE thank you to everyone for their support as we were able to raise over \$1200 to help get the youth to Easter Camp! So thank you all so much for your support!

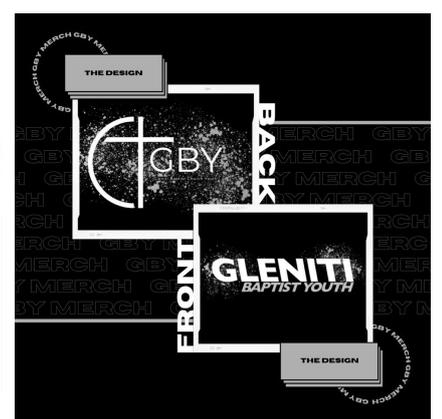
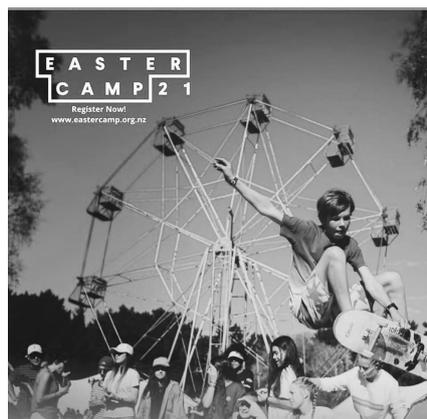


58 GLENITI ROAD | YEARS 7-13 | FRIDAYS 7-9PM | \$2 A NIGHT

## I Believe...

GLENITI BAPTIST YOUTH - 2021 TERM 1

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>29 JAN</b><br>6PM-8PM:<br>BBQ @<br>The Scenic | <b>5 FEB</b><br>I Believe...<br>#1               | <b>12 FEB</b><br>GGT Practice<br>Night                    |   |
| <b>13 FEB</b><br>SAT: Gleniti's<br>Got Talent    | <b>19 FEB</b><br>I Believe...<br>#2              | <b>21 FEB</b><br>SUN: Youth<br>Auction (EC<br>Fundraiser) |   |
| <b>26 FEB</b><br>Baking<br>for Camp              | <b>27-28 FEB</b><br>SAT-SUN:<br>GBC Camp         | <b>5 MAR</b><br>I Believe...<br>#3                        | <b>7 MAR</b><br>SUN: Sausage<br>Sizzle (EC<br>Fundraiser) |
| <b>12 MAR</b><br>I Believe...<br>#4              | <b>13 MAR</b><br>SAT: GBC<br>BBQ                 | <b>19 MAR</b><br>I Believe...<br>#5                       | <b>26 MAR</b><br>Jr: Let's Chat<br>Sr: EC Prep            |
| <b>1-5 APR</b><br>EASTERCAMP                     | <b>9 APR</b><br>Jr: Let's Chat<br>Sr: EC Debrief | <b>11 APR</b><br>SUN: EC at<br>Church                     |   |
|  | <b>16 APR</b><br>I Believe...<br>#6              | <b>23 APR</b><br>HOLIDAYS:<br>Fearless 1<br>Night         |   |



# Testimony Treena Davis

It all started with being 'given' two poems the weekend before. I called them 'Life' and 'Not Dead!' and they are printed in this magazine.

Then my brother contacted me to say that Dad, who had been three weeks in Palmerston North hospital and was due to be discharged for rehab in Levin, had taken a turn for the worse and we were to get up there a.s.a.p.

After a full day of travelling, we arrived to find Dad aware but very drowsy and breathing with oxygen through nasal prongs. It was a shock to see him small and fragile against the white hospital sheets.

I sat up with him with the first night and he managed to sleep. But the second night he was constantly agitated and the medication which had previously helped to settle and calm him, didn't touch him at all. At 1.45am Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February Dad passed away.

For many years I had been asking God about what it would be like when Dad died because when Mum died, I felt nothing, no sadness, no grief. My relationship with my parents had been emotionally disconnected since childhood.

But this time was different. By spending two nights sitting with Dad, just being there for him, my heart was open and connected. Even though I knew he was dying, it was still a shock when he passed away before my eyes. I once again felt like the little girl who just wanted her dad.

And at the same time, I was thanking God that I could 'feel'.

During the funeral planning, it was decided that I would be the one to speak on behalf of the family.

It is a measure of how much that the LORD has healed me that I was able to recall many happy memories. There was a time when I could not remember a single happy memory of my family. Of particular note was Dad's love of singing silly songs and telling funny stories because he used to enjoy making us laugh. It is as if my childhood has been restored to me. It is just like our loving heavenly Father to do that, after all He promised to restore the years that the locusts had eaten.

While writing out what I would say about Dad, I remembered the poems and they took on a new meaning and importance to me. I felt that the LORD was reassuring me about Dad, that my Dad who had walked away from trusting God many years ago, had been reached by God in his final hours and was now with Him. Also, my sister whose 'gifting' is intercessory prayer, had received a 'burden' to pray for Dad, so we were both doubly reassured.

This is a quote from my eulogy: "Dad's legacy to me is my faith in God, my love of bush walks, native birds, dogs, silly songs, blue cheese, detective stories, second hand shops and the ability to tell a funny story. Thanks Dad, I'm grateful you were my dad."

And thank you God.

## Joel 2:25-28

*I will restore to you the years  
that the swarming locust has eaten,  
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,  
my great army, which I sent among you.*

*"You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,  
and praise the name of the LORD your God,  
who has dealt wondrously with you.  
And my people shall never again be put to shame.  
You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,  
and that I am the LORD your God and there is none else.  
And my people shall never again be put to shame.*

*"And it shall come to pass afterward,  
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.*

# Life Groups

You can be part of...



## Timaru Central

1:30pm Monday Afternoons



## Holdens' Life Group

10:15am Tuesday Mornings



## Turners' Life Group

7:30pm Tuesday Nights



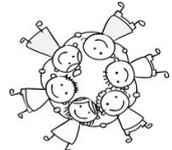
## Prayer For Our Region

7:00am Wednesday Mornings



## Lagesse Life Group

7:30pm Wednesday Nights



## Sharing & Caring Group

10am Wednesday Mornings



## Prayer for the Persecuted

3pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of month



## Encore

10am 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of month



## Men's Life Group

7:30pm Friday nights



## Living in the Spirit

4pm Saturday Afternoons

**STAFF**

**Senior Pastor**

Mark Pavelka 03 684 8985  
021 0877 7661  
[glenitipastor@gmail.com](mailto:glenitipastor@gmail.com)

**Associate Pastor**

Wendy Geerling 03 686 2829  
021 0237 6585  
[wendy.gleniti@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.gleniti@gmail.com)

**CHURCH LEADERS**

**Deacons**

Bruno Lagesse 03 686 0850  
Karen Munnings 021 265 3452  
Tony Shaw 027 221 1537  
Denyse Taylor 03 686 1632  
Grant Taylor 03 686 1632

**Elders**

John Davey 03 684 6250  
Diane Turner 027 488 2056

**TNT Trustees**

John Davey (Chair) 03 684 6250  
Wendy Geerling  
Brendan Grant  
Robyn Hewson  
Kerry Turner

**MINISTRY CONTACTS**

**Children's Church**

Diane Turner 027 488 2056

**Church Library**

Elsie McDonald 03 684 8466

**Global Action Team**

Mark Pavelka 03 684 8985

**Men's Ministry**

Tony Shaw 027 221 1537

**Pastoral Care**

Denyse Taylor 03 686 1632  
Karen Munnings 021 265 3452

**Prayer Network**

Louise Davies 03 688 8241

**Rest Home Services**

Veronica Tompkins 03 686 0656

**Senior Support**

Carolyn McLoughlin 03 684 7372

**Worship Team**

Susan Butler 03 615 8731  
Pauline Hay 03 686 1153

**Youth Ministry**

Wendy Geerling 021 0237 6585  
Dara Morton 027 438 4039

# Upcoming Events

You are welcome to join us for any of the following activities...



**Growing Your Gifts with Grace 2021**

Gleniti Baptist Church  
6 dates-21 Feb-9 May



**TNT Leadership School 2021**

Gleniti Community Centre, 58 Gleniti Road, Timaru  
10 dates-3 Mar-1 Dec



**Public Meeting**

17 Wilson St, Timaru  
23 March 19:30



**Southern Easter Camp**

Christchurch  
1 April 16:00



**Easter Combined Worship**

Life Church Timaru  
2 April 10:00



**Connected Church - Resurrection Sunday**

Gleniti Baptist Church  
4 April 09:00



**Public Meeting**

Wilson Street Baptist Church, Timaru  
14 April 19:30



**Mens Breakfast - Disciplines of a Godly Man**

Baptist Churches  
8 dates-17 Apr-20 Nov



**Overnight Tramp**

Rex Simpson Hut  
25 April 09:00