



11th May 2011

Greetings

On Saturday mornings in winter you'll normally find me refereeing my son's 11th Grade Windsor Park soccer team. This year they've moved into the big boy's league – larger grounds and offside laws. It's the offside laws that I've had to refresh myself with, having to make split-second decisions on things that I see out the corner of my eye (with all the pressure of 'active' parents on the sidelines!). I always enjoy the challenge of learning new things and pushing myself for improvement. It's the same in my spiritual life; I'm always learning new things that are often outside my comfort zone. As we progress in our development at Windsor Park there will be many times when we'll be pushed into learning new things about God and about each other. I pray that as 2011 continues to unfold we'll all be ready to respond to the challenges before us, and the ones to come. I'll talk about some of these challenges at a special **Members Meeting** to be held on **Thursday 19th May 2011 @ 7.30pm** in the Auditorium. Some of the things I'll talk about are detailed below:

Elders:

You'll know that we delayed appointing some new Elders at the last AGM as we needed a little more time to bring some firm recommendations. At the **Members Meeting** next week we'd like to recommend the following 2 people be appointed as Elders:

- **Sonja Williams** is married to Nigel and they have two sons, Hamish (9) and Cooper (7). Sonja is a town planner at the Auckland Council and has been part of Windsor Park for over 25 years. Over that time Sonja has been involved in pretty much everything including leading youth group, life groups, leading pre-marriage classes, and the connections team. She is currently a leader in mainly music and a teacher in preschool - generally always keen to help where needed!
- **Clayton Kimpton** is married to Michelle and they have three children, Amy (20), Josh (19), and Taylor (17) who are all involved at Windsor Park. Clayton is Chairman and a Partner of Kensington Swan Lawyers. Clayton has previously served as an Elder of Windsor Park and currently he and Michelle lead a young adult's life group.

Both Sonja and Clayton potentially add excellent gifting's and perspectives to the existing Elders as it's important to have a team with wide vision across our community.

Windsor Park Christian Childcare Centre:

You might be wondering 'what's happening over at the old McDonald's?' Fair question, but I assure you there has been a lot going on behind the scenes. We now have Building Consent from the Auckland Council and a full estimation of costs. At the **Members Meeting** next week I want to present this project to you and ask for your consent to continue with the development. Our project costs are a little higher than our first estimates, but we believe they are still acceptable. I'll present our revised costs and budgets next week as well as having the plans and pictures up for you to look at.

Christchurch:

A big thanks to everyone who contributed blankets that have been sent to Christchurch. There was a very large pile of them in the foyer over Easter! And a big thanks to Stuart Hight (Air Force Chaplain) who arranged transport on an Air Force Hercules. We also want to thank those who have contributed household goods to a family that we have helped resettle from Christchurch. It's been a blessing to be able to be so practical in some small ways amidst these events, and we'll continue to be guided by those on the ground as to how we might continue to support rebuilding efforts, both physically and emotionally / spiritually.

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Staffing:

You will know that over the last couple of years there has been quite a few changes in our staff team as we've been 'reshaping' our internal structures for the next season of Windsor Park's journey; hopefully I've been communicating these changes enough to you over this time! Here's our latest updates:

- I'm pleased to announce the appointment of a team-based approach to our young adults ministry. This team will be headed by Amanda Pilbrow as Pastor of Young Adults and also includes Sam Burrows and Debbie Trent in support roles. All these positions are part-time in nature and are a unique response to the vacancy created when Rick Pierce moved into the role of Pastor of Spiritual Formation - and Rick will finally be able to focus on developing this role! We'll welcome Amanda, Sam & Debbie in due course, but it's great to have them coming aboard (they are already part of Windsor Park).
- We welcome Cindi Meyer into the role of Preschool Team Leader (part-time) within the Children and Family Ministry team. It's great to have that role filled after a long gap, and Cindi brings a lot of experience and energy to the role.
- The Elders are also working through some structural changes that will allow the development of a new position within WP of Chief Operating Officer (COO), a role that will manage all the operational aspects of our activities, including the oversight of caféwindsor and the integration of the childcare centre and counselling centre. At our Members Meeting next week I'll outline how I see this working.
- Of late we've also welcomed several people into what are significant volunteer staff roles. It's exciting seeing people want to be part of what God is doing through WP. Recently we've welcomed both Jo Little & Shirley Smith into community nursing roles within mainly music and caféwindsor. This is an exciting addition that shows holistic care to our community – you'll hear more details in due course.

Giving:

You'll see that most weeks we report our giving figures in the newsletter. You'll often see that these figures don't show a consistent pattern! As at 31st March we met our budgeted figures but this is now slipping behind slightly. We encourage you to be praying about your support of WP and responding as God leads, knowing that it is only through our combined generosity that we are able to grow God's Kingdom in the ways we do.

The **Recycle Appeal** is one significant way you can contribute to Windsor Park. In this year's budget we're relying on this appeal to help us achieve our goals for 2011. There is no reason why this shouldn't be successful (it's less than 20% of the IRD rebates that are due to people) and I draw your attention to the enclosed brochure that explains this more fully. Please again consider your response to this easy way to contribute to WP.

We've recently produced a new 'Giving' brochure which briefly outlines our theology in this area; if you haven't seen it please grab a copy from the Information Kiosk, or get in contact with us and we can email it to you.

Baptisms:

On Sunday 22nd May 2011 we want to offer the opportunity for you to be baptised in our services. This is a central part of someone's faith journey and we'd love to talk to you more about this. Contact us if you'd like to be baptised at any one of our services on that day, or if you have any questions, again please contact us and we can send you some information about baptism, either in the mail or by email.

Other Bits & Pieces:

- We all know that various people in our community are feeling the 'pinch' in various ways. This is reflected in the unprecedented demand on our foodbank, which is virtually empty. This is a very practical way to support those in need around us and I'd simply ask you to contribute in some small way as you're able – but if every 3rd person brought a small item each week to Church, we'd have ample supplies. If you want to donate money make sure you identify yourself so that we can issue you a receipt and a 3rd of the donation is refundable (as per the Recycle Appeal notes).
- Keep your eyes open on various opportunities that are regularly listed on our website or in the newsletter. One such opportunity that we're running for the first time is a 1-evening seminar called Hot Tips for Blended Families on Wednesday 1st June @ 7, 15pm.
- Also you'll see us regularly talking about the Greg Laurie Auckland Harvest to be held on 25th & 26th June 2011. Start praying about who you might invite to come along with you. Remember we'll be running busses to the venue (Vector Arena) on the Saturday evening.
- The Rugby World Cup will loom after Greg Laurie; this is a great opportunity to serve our local community. Again keep your eyes open for information as it's released through June about how we intend to serve our community at this time.

I think that's enough for now! Like always, if you have any questions or encouragements, please email me on grant.harris@windsorpark.org.nz.

Yours on the journey



Grant Harris
Senior Pastor