



AN EMAIL NEWSLETTER FROM THE UNITING CONGREGATIONS OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

ANGLICAN > CHRISTIAN CHURCHES > CONGREGATIONAL UNION > METHODIST > PRESBYTERIAN >

December 2009

From the UCANZ Office:

It has been a quiet few weeks for Robyn Daniels (Administrative Assistant) in the office as Peter MacKenzie (Executive Officer) has been out and about a lot. Robyn has been tidying up the books, working on the Minister Removal Fund, and preparing our own Charities Commission return. Peter attended Methodist Conference in Christchurch and has taken services in Brooklyn (Wellington), St Albans (Christchurch), Tawa, Foxton, Gisborne, Haumoana (Hawkes Bay) and Wainuiomata. Over the two years of his appointment Peter has now visited all the regions of New Zealand and made contact with many parishes and church leaders.

Why was Baby Jesus so good? Because he was born into a stable family environment.

Office Closed

The UCANZ office in Wellington will be closed from 23 December until 11 January. Peter will continue to check emails over the period, so if there is something urgent please send an email to peter@ucnaz.org.nz rather than ring the office.

Christian World Service

The CWS Christmas Appeal is now open in many congregations. This is an expression of our ecumenical journey as CWS is supported by all our partner churches. Please encourage your parish to "Give us a chance."

What Magi stock is most used at Christmas? - camels.

End of Year tasks

One last reminder to make sure you have the Charities Commission return in. Notify the UCANZ office of any changes in parish leadership for the new directory, and check that automatic payments are all correct.

WEBSITE: www.UCANZ.org.nz

Ideas that DON'T work for Christmas

- Tying up a whole lot of candles to symbolize a united spirit - they burn out of control.
Using a live lamb in a children's pageant - they do their business and the kids step in it.
Encouraging children to pray for the gifts they want from Santa.
Allowing your two-year-old son to climb up the Christmas Tree - it falls down!
Relying on a woman who was 9 months pregnant to turn up to the Christmas Eve service (she preferred the Maternity Wing).

Some that HAVE worked

- Telling the historical story of Saint Nicholas and his generous spirit.
Getting people to share compliments about each other as presents.
Burning the Christ Candle from Christmas Day until Good Friday where (with a bit of planning) it finally snuffs it.
Having schoolchildren make decorations for the church's Christmas tree.
Have older members share stories of Christmas past.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Peter and Robyn wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. May you find time in the busyness of the holidays to relax and simply enjoy the blessings of life and family. We look forward to working both for and with you in the new year and building the Kingdom of God.

How do we know the magi were wise men? They asked for directions!

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