

UCANZ 10 Dec 2024

Kia ora e te whanau

FORUM 2025

As we come to the end of this year, 2025 looms much larger in the view-finder. For me that means Forum 2025, Kings Birthday Weekend, in Auckland, is increasingly becoming front and centre.

We're looking now for 'Expressions of Interest' – from those intending or hoping to be present. I'd be grateful if you could simply contact me at my personal email address yomyom@xtra.co.nz, to let me know it's on your radar.

We're expecting registrations to be open from the beginning of February. I'm hoping to confirm the cost in my next missive.

Leadership and Personal Development

1. How to Be Better at Giving (and Getting) Constructive Criticism

This thoughtful article has some very useful tips on an area most of us find difficult (If you find it easy-peasy it may be worth asking why?). It provides some good structure in both preparing oneself, and in tackling the issues involved – either as the giver or receiver. It can be read here:

<https://www.wondermind.com/article/constructive-criticism>

2. How to stop tiptoeing around disability at work (well, anywhere, really)

There's an honesty in this article about the discomfort that many of us feel (even if just a little) around people with obvious, visible, disability. The author provides a direct, straightforward, and helpful way of dealing with ourselves in situations in which we might experience our own awkwardness – always focussing on the fullness of humanity of the person in front of us. The article can be read here: <https://www.fastcompany.com/91240638/how-to-stop-tiptoeing-around-disability-at-work>

3. Want More People to Reply to Your Texts?

Now for something more trivial - once again Jessica Stillman offers a counterintuitive research-based article suggesting we go light on abbreviated txt speak, Lol. IMHO it has some useful things to say – ultimately it's all about respect and wanting to be taken seriously. FWIW the article can be read here:

<https://www.inc.com/jessica-stillman/want-more-people-to-reply-to-your-texts-stanford-research-says-stop-making-this-common-texting-mistake/91033448>

-

Homilies & Preaching Resources

Trevor Hoggard's sermon, includes the lectionary readings of Zephaniah 3:14-20; and Luke 3:7-18. Trevor responds to the tension between our desire and the positive benefit of material comfort, and need for spiritual nurture. His sermon can be experienced here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDuuA-WmKWM&t=5s>

The Diocese of Waikato & Taranaki have also started posting sermons on-line. The more the merrier! The preacher for this coming Sunday is **Dan Lander**, Precentor for the Taranaki Cathedral. Dan also focusses on the Gospel text for the coming Sunday – Luke 3:7-18. His message can be experienced with here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AoJuwzbizEQ>

My response to the Gospel text for December 8th of Luke 3:7-18 is titled 'Is it Good News?' It can be experienced here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gw5aP12PpbM&t=30s>

Michael Godfrey (out of the Dunedin Anglican Diocese) hosts a conversation of 4 Theologians and Practitioners at the beginning of each week around the Gospel lectionary text for the coming Sunday. They examine four issues – one gives background to the text, then they consider their challenges, Good News, and application (the 'so what?'). The site with all its options can be accessed here: <https://www.calledsouth.org.nz/gospel-conversations/> . The conversation this week continues Advent with the same text – Luke 3:7-18. It can be engaged with here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSluLjHRvu8>

Again, it will help broaden all our reach if you '**subscribe**' and '**like**'.

Once again, use the videos as you will.

Finally.

As always, if you find you'd prefer not to receive this weekly newsletter, please let me know and your address will be removed.

Ngā manaakitanga

Andrew Doubleday

UCANZ Ministry Facilitator

UCANZ Office



Uniting Congregations
OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Postal Address UCANZ, 65 Gerald Street, Lincoln 7608