



May 2020

## Message from the Moderator & Learnings from Lockdown, Rev Steve Millward



Dear Northern Presbytery,

We are now at Level Three; Threedom! We are on the way towards Level 2<sup>1</sup>. Consequently, we need to change our leadership style from crisis leadership to recovery leadership. There is relevant information in this newsletter helping us see what church at Level 2 may look like. I would like to thank the Northern Presbytery COVID-19 Task Group for all their assistance in caring for our leaders and churches throughout this time.

**Here are a few ideas that can help us, “advance...be confident...dare to proclaim the Gospel.”<sup>1</sup>**

### The vision of GO2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gghtsW-d29rY&feature=youtu.be> How about asking 5 people in your congregation to meet, share their testimony ( 1 min each) on video, vet and place them on your FB page and other social media? Let us be kind to NZ and love them with the Good News of Jesus Christ who gives us eternal security, hope and freedom from, “the sting of death”.<sup>2</sup>

**Vanautu!** “It’s better to give than to receive”.<sup>3</sup> May we give as we can to the Vanuatu appeal.

<https://www.worldvision.org.nz/causes/emergency-relief/cyclone-harold-appeal/>

**Voting on legalising personal cannabis in September** – we know alcohol and domestic abuse and violence are connected – “...we are rightly booting Big Tobacco out of the country, why are we in the process of putting down a welcome mat for Big Marijuana.”<sup>4</sup>

## GLOBAL OUTREACH DAY

# G 2020

*<sup>35</sup>In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”*

*Acts 20:35 NIV*

<sup>1</sup> Phil. 1.12-14

<sup>2</sup> 1 Corinthians 15. 54-56

<sup>3</sup> Acts 20.35 KJV

<sup>4</sup> See SayNopeToDope.org.nz/potency for source references and summary

## Learnings from our COVID-19 Lockdown

**Presupposition:** Our culture (practices and beliefs) before a crisis can help us, or hinder us, in adapting effectively when a crisis occurs.

These are a few faith principles that some of us have found helpful before COVID-19, and during this lockdown, that are helping some Churches, “advance the Gospel...become confident ...and dare to proclaim the Gospel!”

**Choices:** to advance or retreat – to grow or embrace a *laissez-faire* response – be a thermostat or a thermometer. Crisis’ place us in the valley of decision.<sup>5</sup>

**Faith response:** “advance the Gospel...become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the Gospel...”<sup>6</sup>. A crisis doesn’t change people, it reveals them.<sup>7</sup> A growth mindset.

**Work smart:** invest in yourself, your marriage and family, in your leaders and in your people.

**Major on your major:** I am called to preach and teach and lead.<sup>8</sup> Doing this has helped me help others and stay enthused.

**Grow community:** pastoral care team – discovering who is pastorally gifted

**Evangelism:** Now is an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ more widely.

**Keep upskilling:** Learning new mediums for communicating and then learning to communicate effectively on them. A growth mindset is important.

**Multiple methods of communication** are needed<sup>9</sup>

**Keeping an accurate data list is a top priority**<sup>10</sup>

**Make the most of Sunday**<sup>11</sup>

**Encouragement, permission giving and effective communication** open doors to new ministries beginning<sup>12</sup>

## Lessons from the COVID-19 crisis

**Discipleship, small groups, and leadership training** can take place thru social media and are.<sup>13</sup>

**A rapid response is needed** for any disruption to normality to get funding, set up appropriate systems and help our people feel cared for and feel confident in our leadership

**Meeting felt needs** through food parcels and firewood, along with phoning and caring, has opened hearts and bridged gaps

**Maintaining connections** with people is more important than the medium

**Stocktake of tech** that people have in your church

**No one gets left behind outlook**

**Preparing the right questions** for pastoral team to ask people

**Need for tech savvy musicians** to help with sung worship when using Zoom

**Making use of the time wisely**

**Getting involved in recovery leadership.**

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<sup>5</sup> Joel 3.14

<sup>6</sup> Phil 1.12-14

<sup>7</sup> Sir Don McKinnon

<sup>8</sup> Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel 1 Cor. 9.16

<sup>9</sup> FB - Zoom -You Tube- Email – Texting- Website Phoning and face to face are proving beneficial

<sup>10</sup> Getting contact details is important

<sup>11</sup> Preach the Word – encourage inspire help people to engage with the Gospel and be friendly

<sup>12</sup> Jump n Jive went on You Tube live 8000 views - Our Sunday Services have a bigger attendance online

<sup>13</sup> This can save travel time and make it more accessible for a larger group of people

## CRISIS TO RECOVERY LEADERSHIP:

Links to 8 short videos to encourage us all to move forwards:

Part 1 Rewire to inspire <https://youtu.be/yJ8jHlixJnA>

Part 2 Rewire to inspire <https://youtu.be/5zknv9TzOiw>

Part 3 Rewire to inspire <https://youtu.be/UdjN-BM9KGk>

Let's care and not fear <https://youtu.be/Or4uTD6qvMc>

Let's be seers Part 1 Lockdown Day 21 <https://youtu.be/PdepSTlsmQc>

Let's be seers! Part 2 Lockdown Day 27 <https://youtu.be/CxNgNAteETM>

Part 1 Advance ...be confident ...dare! [https://youtu.be/XyfQb\\_jRYB4](https://youtu.be/XyfQb_jRYB4)

Part 2 Advance ...be confident...dare! <https://youtu.be/O-rkvPj5UrM>

Together  
Everyone  
Achieves  
More

*John C Maxwell*

**May we respond in “love and faithfulness”<sup>14</sup> to our challenges!**

**God bless you all. Steve M. Mod.**

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Update from the Executive Officer

Greetings from Rod

On Monday (11<sup>th</sup>), after the announcements by the Prime Minister regarding moving to level 2, PCANZ will put out a communication to all Presbyterian Churches. This will provide a guideline and a template to use for Church Councils to prepare a COVID-19 Safety Plan, which is required before returning to use Church buildings. Having a COVID-19 Safety Plan meets government requirements as well as health and safety obligations towards employees and building users.

Church Council's (or equivalent) are responsible to ensure all church buildings are safe to use, including being clean and hygienic. Displaying the Safety Plan where it can be seen by everyone allows users of a building or space to know what steps they need to take to remain safe.

For activities in a church building, the person or group who is responsible for the management of that building is responsible. For church activities away from church buildings, for example home groups, the person organising the activity is responsible. If the person responsible is not physically present at the activity, a person who is present should be specifically tasked with monitoring compliance.

It is expected that the PCANZ guidelines reflecting government requirements will include: separate entrance and exit to ensure safe distance between people; seating arrangements to ensure adequate spacing between people and social distancing in interactions; cleaning before and after each use; keeping a record of all who use a church building, for each occasion. There is a contact tracing service at [www.tracing.co.nz/get](http://www.tracing.co.nz/get), which apparently is a great way of easily recording details.

Early this week a survey was sent out to be completed for each church. Completing this is very important as it will provide the presbytery with a sound basis for focusing on who and how to best assist individual churches / people. This will also be used to inform the development of Presbytery's budget for 2020/21.

The leadership conference scheduled for 22 June has been postponed, to be held probably in October or November this year. The full presbytery business meeting on 22 June has also been postponed. This will be called to occur late July, with one item being the approval of the 2020/21 budget.

Warm regards in this challenging time.

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<sup>14</sup> Prov. 5.3

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## PCANZ Updates

You may well be considering what ministry in your context could look like under alert level two. PCANZ will be releasing guidelines for parishes by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May. Please look on the COVID-19 page of the website for more information next week.

<https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/for-parishes/coronavirus-information#Res>

<https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/for-parishes/coronavirus-information#Vine>



# Alert Level 2



churches will receive a communication from the Church Properties Trustees on Monday regarding being able to access up to \$50k from capital funds to use operationally as one way of helping address any COVID-19 impact difficulties.

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## Connect lockdown series: youth ministry at alert level two

How can we use the transition to level two to kickstart a reformation in our youth ministry? How do we keep our people safe and still engage with those that can't be with us physically? We would love you to join the PYM team to engage with these questions and the others you bring. Join us LIVE on the PYM Facebook page at 12:30pm on Tuesday, 12 May. Either participate live or watch it any time after it is finished

<https://www.facebook.com/presbyterianyouthministry/>

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## Vacancies in the Northern Presbytery

We will start to include regular features again such as vacancies from June onwards.

If your church has a vacancy that you wish to have included in the June issue of PointsNorth please send to [administrator@northpres.org.nz](mailto:administrator@northpres.org.nz). With a brief position description, contact details and a church logo.

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Part 2 Advance ...be confident...dare! <https://youtu.be/O-rkvPj5UrM>