Winter holidays are almost upon us. This is a great time to get creating and we have lots of ideas and resources for you to inspire and encourage children to express their ideas about how “small things done with great love” can make a difference for our LOVE REACHES OUT competition. We’ve been busy creating too - resources for commemorating The Reformation with children. And as always there are lots of training and networking opportunities this month.

God bless.
Jill, Cheryl and Robin
Your Kids Friendly Team

**Love Reaches Out: Doing small things with great love**
We have created lots of resources to help you encourage children to explore this central theme of our gospel: children’s lessons, picture books, templates and invitations for arty crafty events and more. And if you’re in the Dunedin region pop along to the Presbyterian Support offices for a LOVE REACHES OUTarty crafty day on 8 July. Contact Cheryl to find out more. Competition closes at the end of July so don’t delay. [Read more.](#)

**Celebrating the Bible**
July is Bible month. Choose any Sunday or every Sunday in July to celebrate and explore the Bible with children. [The Bible Society](#) has created some great free resources including 5 children’s lessons, a free copy of The Big Little Bible, a special deal on this Bible for those who want more and Bible verse colouring illustrations. For these and more resources [click here.](#)

Our next [Transformers – Raising Up Young Leaders](#) camp is at Ngaruawahia from Friday 8 to 10 September. Registrations are open so start shoulder tapping your 10 to 13 year olds, find some mentors and come along to this amazing camp that inspires young people to serve in the way of Jesus. To find out more about Transformers [click here.](#)

**Commemorating The Reformation with Children**
In our latest blog Jill offers 5 reasons to commemorate The Reformation with children. We have created lots of [resources](#) to help you do this. Please share your ideas and resources too.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
Ministry with children is vital to our churches’ mission. 50% of Christians come to faith before the age of 12. Many cite their childhood teacher as a key influence in their faith. Children’s ministry leaders need to be encouraged, resourced and trained. Tap into these professional development opportunities and/or invite the Kids Friendly coaches to come and run training in your church or region.
AUCKLAND. Spark Plus Training: Thursday 27 July
Join us for this training and networking evening hosted by Kids Friendly, Baptists, Anglicans and Scripture Union for all who minister with children in churches, communities and schools. For details of workshops, time and registration click here.

BAY OF PLENTY. Building Bridges Networking and Training Friday 28 July, 12.30-2.30 pm
Join us for this networking and training event at Bethlehem Community Church, 83 Moffatt Road on Friday 28 July from 12.30 to 2.30 pm. Jill Kayser will facilitate a workshop on “Building bridges” with our community. Please bring something to share for lunch. RSVP familyministriesbcc@gmail.com (Karen) Read more

DUNEDIN, INVERCARGILL. The power of intergenerational connection, 3 and 6 Aug
Join this event hosted by the Children’s Ministry Network Otago Southland. Aaran Douglas (SUNZ) will share stories and ideas of how intergenerational connections can enrich the faith formation of all ages.

PALMERSTON NORTH. “We have to talk” - navigating tricky conversations, 10 or 11 August
Training for those who work with children and families, and suitable for any relationships (colleagues, friends, partners). 10 August, 7pm- 9pm or 11 August, 12.30-2.30pm, St David’s Church, Main Street, costs $15 p.p. (early bird before 31 July) or $20 p.p., $40 for a group of 4. Register at 06-358 1964 or lighthousepn@gmail.com.

WOF SAFETY TRAINING for youth and children's ministry leaders – July and August
Our next free WOF SAFETY TRAINING events led by PYM and Kids Friendly are scheduled for: 21-23 July @ Connect – Waikanae and 12 August – Oamaru (Weston Community Church)

WELLINGTON. Central Gathering, 19 August
You’re invited to join us at the gathering of the Central Presbytery on Saturday 19 August. There will be a variety of workshops to choose from, opportunities to network and worship together. And your children are welcome too! BGI is running a programme for children – a “first” for our Presbytery so we’d love you to support it.

Ministry with Children & Families paper, Laidlaw College, Semester 2 (starts 19 July, 6-9 pm)
We’re excited to introduce this paper from Laidlaw being taught at the Manukau and Christchurch campuses. Available for credit or for interest (no exams/course work). This interactive course will be co-facilitated by Jill Kayser (Manukau) and Rachel Sangster (Christchurch). Read more/register.
Professional development is the skills and knowledge an employee gains to optimize her personal development and job growth. It includes learning opportunities, such as college degrees and coursework, or attending conferences or training sessions. This development is an extensive and collaborative process; upon completion, an evaluation of progress is usually performed. Many different professionals engage in such learning opportunities, including teachers, lawyers, healthcare professionals, and engineers. Professional development refers to skills and knowledge attained for both personal development and career advancement. Professional development encompasses all types of facilitated learning opportunities, ranging from college degrees to formal coursework, conferences and informal learning opportunities situated in practice. It has been described as intensive and collaborative, ideally incorporating an evaluative stage [Speck, M. & Knipe, C. (2005) "Why can't we get it right? Designing high-quality