

SNZ YOUTH DEPARTMENT REPORT 2022

2022 was another challenging year while navigating a COVID affected season of ministry. Our first event the SNZ youth leadership summit 'Mahitahi: The Power of Collaboration' was scheduled for the weekend of March 5th and 6th but was ultimately cancelled due to the COVID outbreak, we will look at launching this again in 2023.

On the weekend of June 24th-26th we hosted the combined NNZC and SNZ Young Adult 'Ignite' weekend event here at Pascoe Park. We were blessed to have speakers from both conferences (Keli Pepa, SJ Riley, Hannah Andrykanus, Lance Boulton and Victor Kulakov) who shared some powerful messages and workshops around topics like discipleship and prayer across the weekend. The event was well attended by both conferences young people (over 80), and we were impressed by the amount of youth from the North who made the effort to come down, this event will be held again in 2023 in the North Island, we are hoping to make it as viable as possible for a group of our SNZ youth to travel up there for this.

From the 12th-17th of July we had our Junior and Teen camp at Mt Hutt Retreat. We were blessed to have the ministry of Esera Timu for the week and he spoke to our theme 'Defenders of the Universe' in a very profound and impactful way. The emphasis was on standing up for our faith in Jesus and the implications of that in a universal and eternal sense. There was a lot of fun had and new connections made across the week but most importantly, at the conclusion of the church portion of Sabbath morning more than 40 juniors and teens made a commitment to give their hearts to Jesus and be defenders of the faith.

Due to the nature of a COVID affected year we were only able to have both of our sports weekends if they were held in close succession, so in August and September we had the volleyball and basketball weekends 'Back II Back' with our theme being based on Ecclesiastes 4:12 *"A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer."* Both the rallies and tournaments for both weekends were well attended and the spirit of competition for both tournaments was exceptional without issue whatsoever during play. The speakers for these rallies were Kofi Amoah (Volleyball Weekend) who is the current chaplain at Longburn Adventist College and our very own Pr Mebzar Quinto, their messages focused on the importance of forgiveness and the significance of working together, their messages were appreciated by all of those in attendance.

I have had the opportunity to visit a number of churches in Christchurch during the year and connect with our youth leaders and I am working towards putting together a youth advisory for 2023 with the intention of planning a semi-regular regional event for our young people to connect, be encouraged, and inspired. We look forward to what God has planned and what the Spirit will do through this group next year. Thank you and God bless,

Pr Jerry Flynn (SNZ Youth Director)