



# THE JOG

FORTNIGHTLY NEWS LETTER  
NOVEMBER: 27<sup>TH</sup> - DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> 2011

**Abnormal, subnormal or what!!** For some time now, I have been contemplating a phenomenon that I, through observation, could see existed, but I didn't quite know how to verbalize. However, I think the words have finally come to me. I have observed that **when the subnormal becomes normal, then what is normal becomes abnormal.** I've reached this conclusion after watching and hearing biblical concepts and spiritual people ridiculed as being "weird," "radical," and "abnormal." But after assessing these doctrines and people, I've determined that they aren't abnormal at all. Rather, they're being labeled as "abnormal" by people who unknowingly think "subnormal" is "normal." Rather than talking in abstract, allow me to share a few concrete examples.

A family is led in a quiet prayer at a restaurant or cafe. Another Christian across the room looks on and concludes they're "strange" and would himself, be embarrassed to be seen praying for his food. Is a praying family "abnormal?" Only through the eyes of one who thinks the "subnormal" is "normal." A young lady won't wear revealing and suggestive clothing, but instead wears clothing that is modest. Her Christian peers may look at her and conclude she's "out of touch" because she won't wear the latest fashions. However, is dressing modestly "abnormal?" Only through the eyes of one who thinks the "subnormal" is "normal."

A congregation is in the process of making an important decision. The church is asked to pray and fast. Some in the congregation think to themselves that being asked to pray is one thing, but being asked to fast is just "weird." However, is asking the church to pray and fast "abnormal?" Only through the eyes of one who thinks the "subnormal" is "normal."

A young Christian refuses to share, download, or even listen to illegally obtained music. His friends in the youth group think he's ridiculous for his decision. However, is honesty in all things "abnormal?" Only through the eyes of one who thinks the "subnormal" is "normal."

A Christian lady privately goes to another Christian woman who has recently offended her in an attempt to resolve their problem. No sooner than their meeting is over, the Christian woman being rebuked is on the phone telling her friends about how brazen and nervy this Christian lady was. However, is trying to privately settle one's differences "abnormal?" Only through the eyes of one who thinks the "subnormal" is "normal."

I could keep going with many more examples which illustrate this phenomenon, but such should suffice. I just want this to be a wake-up call. Maybe we've been living "subnormal" lives and didn't realize it. Friends, it's time that we reclaim normalcy, and stop living subnormal lives. Pretending "subnormal" is "normal" doesn't make it so. And neither does calling "normal" behavior "abnormal" make it so. Are those strange, abnormal people we know really abnormal, or could it be that we've been living subnormal lives? **What do you think?**

## Upcoming Events

- Youth Group: 25<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Fellowship Meal:  
Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Nov.
- Men's class: 27<sup>th</sup>: James.
- Men's Training Class:  
4<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Ladies Class: 14<sup>th</sup> and  
28<sup>th</sup> Nov – 5<sup>th</sup> Dec.
- Nov 27<sup>th</sup> Guest Speaker:  
James Cammock. James  
will be presenting two  
lessons in the morning  
and teaching the men's  
class in the evening.

New Plymouth Church of Christ:

[www.churchofchrist.org.nz](http://www.churchofchrist.org.nz)

[allan@churchofchrist.org.nz](mailto:allan@churchofchrist.org.nz)

96: Waimea Street,  
New Plymouth, N.Z



# Family Matters

*"..From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love." (Ephesians 4:16)*

- The "JOG" will be available on line at [www.churchofchrist.org.nz](http://www.churchofchrist.org.nz)
- Hopefully this will be available over the next few weeks.
- Several have asked me for copies of sermon notes, again these are available online. If you ask me I can also hand you a copy on Sunday at services.
- A special thanks to Karen for the wonderful flowers that are placed in the building each Sunday and also to Gaye for the wonderful baking that she supplies for Sunday morning refreshments.
- Keep in our prayers those travelling at this time: Steve, Jensen's, and others that I may have overlooked.
- Luncheon :Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>



*Family Fellowship, Worship and prayer. . .*

## Roster Responsibilities

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>

**Service Leader: Allan.**

Open Prayer: Glenn.  
Scripture Noel: (1<sup>st</sup> Jo 5:1-8)  
Song Leader: Allan.  
Communion: Tony/Kane.  
Sermon: James  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prayer: Peter.  
Creche: Jean+ Parent  
Communion prep: Fowells.  
Clean Building: Heathers (27<sup>th</sup> - 3rd)

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec

**Service Leader: Steve.**

Open Prayer: Allan.  
Scripture: Jason: (1<sup>st</sup> Jo 5:9-12.)  
Song Leader: Kane  
Communion: Glenn/Chris.  
Sermon: Steve.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prayer: Dave.  
Creche: Debbie + Parent  
Communion prep: Blackmans  
Clean Building: Sawtells (4<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>)

**Wednesday Night:**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> Allan/ Classes'**  
**30<sup>th</sup> Allan/Classes'**

### Prayer list Update

Jimmy B and Linda Hill  
Jerry ,Anne.  
Bro Ken in ICU.  
Quinn Tattersfeild.  
Mary DiPalma  
Rod And Gaye.  
Steve.  
Sandy Payne.  
Lisa VanKuyk.  
The 10 New contacts viewing the DVD.  
Evangelism programme.  
The new converts in Micronesia plus the new congregation.  
New congregation in Porirua.  
Members who are in the search for new employment.  
Upcoming New Year programme

### Coming up in the New Year.

DiPalma Series : 14<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012

Congregation "Picnic in the Park": Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012

Palmerston North Camp: 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012

Pirongia Camp: 28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012

### New Plymouth Church Family

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am.

Bible Study: 11:15 am.

Sunday Night Men's Class:  
6:30pm

Wednesday Night Study: 6:30  
pm.

Monday Night Ladies Class:  
7:00 pm.