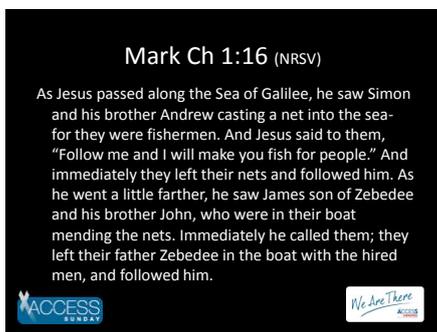


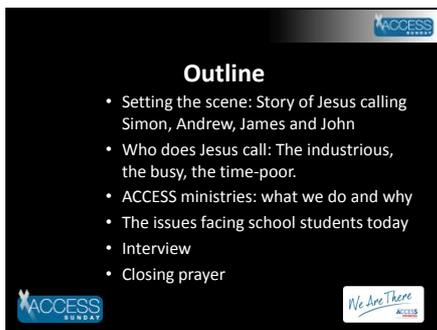
Slide 1



Slide 2



Slide 3





Setting the scene

Commercial fishing is hard work, it's not rod in hand, legs dangling leisurely over the edge of the pier, nor is it the sheer exhilaration of the sea spray on your face, rock kind of fishing either. It is about maximum catch in minimum time, it is about a good trade at the dock, it's about being industrious, providing food for the table, simple and honest hard work.

For Simon and his brother Andrew, for James son of Zebedee, and his brother John, the Galilean fishing trade was much the same as it is today, good nets, good staff and hopefully with a little luck, a good catch. Zebedee and his sons were in particular, a successful team; they owned their own boat and managed a number of hired men. It was a business that required consistently good catches. Keeping ones family fed and staff wages paid up, these men were respectable and known members of the local community, they were a corner stone of local trade.

At the same time, there were rumours afoot around Nazareth. Rumours of some man in the wilderness, who wandered out after forty days and nights, some said he met the devil himself in that desert, some said he lived with the wild beasts yet survived, some said angels tended his needs.

For respectable fishermen there isn't much time for small town chit chat. Timing is critical, catching the right tide is far more important than stories about men wandering aimlessly in the desert waiting on God, then reappearing with good news about some Kingdom place. Ethereal places, heady concepts and philosophy were for the thinkers, not for four men who traded in fish down on the local shore.

And then a man walked along the shore, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, he didn't even slow to a stop. And with all authority on heaven and earth Jesus called out to them

Slide 5

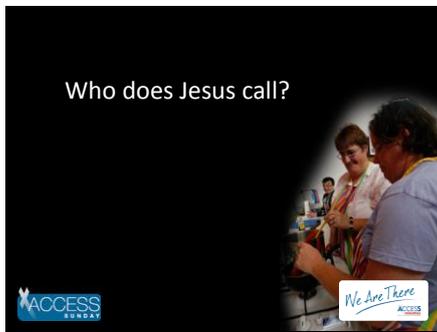


Most of us can relate to these four men Simon, Andrew, James and John. The requests and demands on our own time. Our work, our home life, our friends, our church. Then why is it, that Jesus would call four men who had no time to spare to fish for people? It was hard enough to catch a good quantity of fish, surely, it would have been better for Jesus to request the hired labourers to come and follow him.

No, Jesus targets the time poor, the busy, the industrious to follow him.

For us, it is a real challenge to put aside the things of the day, to find time to do this kingdom work. It is a call for all of us, to follow Jesus and fish for people.

Slide 6



There are many ways and opportunities to go fishing for people. For some it's a call to the cold-face of mission, to give up lives of relative comfort and become in the true sense missionaries. We are not off the hook if we stay behind, there are many ways for us to go fishing too, to take part in local community based mission work. Prayer ministry, hospitality, fund raising for others, all these and more are essential elements of God's people working together, fishing together.

Slide 7



Today is ACCESS Sunday, a day that we celebrate people who have been fishing, fishing for the Kingdom. Some putting a little time aside in their week to teach Christian Religious Education, for others putting whole careers aside to become chaplains, fully fledged and committed to the service of their school communities

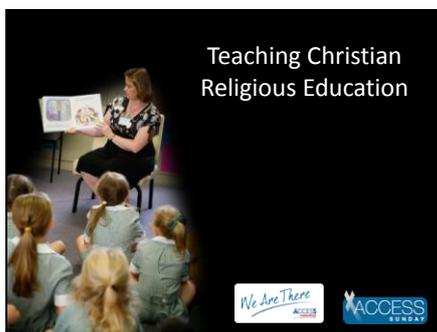
Slide 8



What is our work at ACCESS ministries about? It is about opportunities for the church to engage with the community through local schools. Its our opportunity to share the love of Jesus with them. It encompasses both chaplaincy and CRE programs, reaching Victorian students in both primary and secondary schools.

It's about teaching children about the Bible and the life of Jesus, and assisting young people to ask the big questions, helping them to develop positive and long term life skills and strategies.

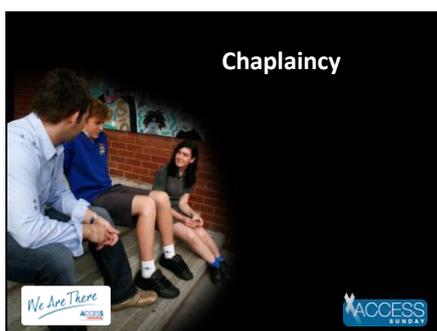
Slide 9



Teaching CRE is more than just rolling out 30 minutes of religious instruction to primary school children once a week. It has life changing and eternal consequences in young lives. It is work that must be done in our backyard although the rewards may only ever be seen in eternity.

But, occasionally God allows us to see amazing tributes of lives made worthwhile, not ones cut short or sold out at the end of too short a journey. CRE teachers tell us of heart felt words , 'my prayer was answered' or a child humming Jesus loves me this I know, or the encouraging story of a child deciding to do the impossible and dream big, because Jesus called fishermen, and Daniel was saved from lions, and God even made the stars, I can shine too because he cares about me...

Slide 10



The issues facing young people today are unique, as is the case for every generation. But today more than ever young people are susceptible to new forms of peer pressure that invades even the privacy of their own homes. The advent of the internet brings with it some amazing prospects, however it also has introduced a new way of interaction among young people. To some it is simply a fun way of keeping in touch. For others it is the ultimate device for inflicting misery on peers and even teachers in a very public arena. Welcome to the world of cyber- bullying

Slide 11



For most of us, bullying was played out between 9 and 3 and the retreat of home was usually rapid, and we were safe, there was time out.

Imagine what it would be like, to come home from a demoralising day at school, victim of the same group of kids yet again. You come home, throw your bag in the door, you're tired and stressed out, you've got heaps of homework to do. You're so behind because you can't concentrate in class, everything is late and the teachers are getting cross.

You turn on your computer and open up your English assignment, a little icon starts flashing on your screen, it's impossible to ignore it, like an itch that has to be scratched. You try to concentrate on your assignment but the flashing icon requires attention, someone wants to tell you something...

You click, and to your horror you see you own name, plastered on the screen with a photo of you that is enough to make you want to die. It's private and personal and everyone can see you, and everyone is laughing at you. They are calling you names and you bury your head in your hands, hot tears streaming down your face, humiliation, embarrassment anger blended together. How can I face another day at school, how can I face another day of my life....

Slide 12

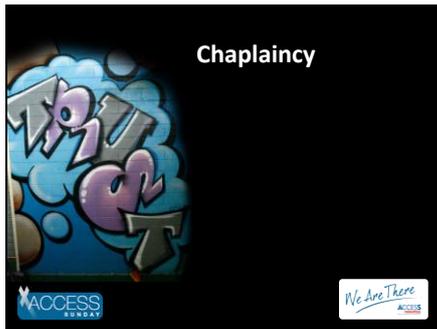


You are too embarrassed to tell your parents, there is no one to turn to. Welcome to the world of cyber bullying.

After a sleepless night while you checked your account every few minutes to torture yourself further with what people are saying about you, you decide there is only one thing to do.

You sneak into the school yard early, avoiding everyone, yet you feel their eyes boring into you sniggering, you walk up the hall and find a door with one word written on it, **chaplain**, its always open. You walk inside, your eyes meet Sarah's the Chaplain and you shake uncontrollably and the tears are unstoppable.

Slide 13

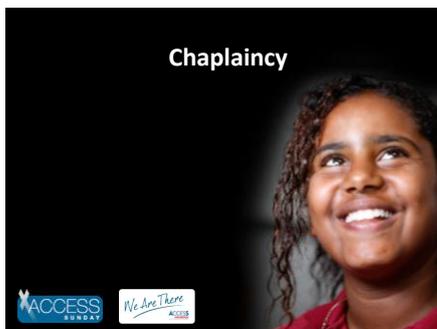


“There is nothing I can do” you say with a sad smile, *“first things first”* she says, *“let me get the hot chocolate on and the comfiest chair in the house.”* It feels like a hug and you know from her smile that she’s in it with you, and you begin to feel safer, and slowly but surely the world begins to shift back into focus, perspective slowly dawns and you begin to realise the humiliation of the night is over and soon it’ll be yesterday’s news.

There is no way you are leaving Sarah’s office yet, but that doesn’t matter she’s got all day, she cares and she has a plan to make things better.

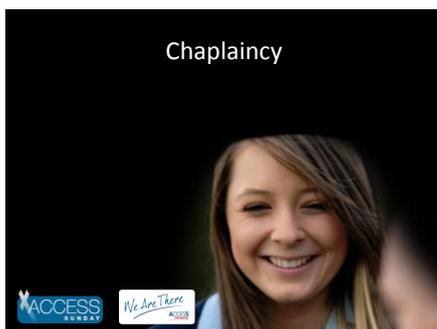
Sarah prays for you in her mind as she makes the third hot chocolate,

Slide 14



Lord give me the wisdom I need to nurture your young people. Help me with the right words to say, to build in them compassion and respect for each other. Lord, help me to give them the practical tools to withstand such personal attacks. Lord just give me strength and support because it you know it just breaks my heart.

Slide 15



She turns, hands you your hot chocolate as you sit cross-legged, smiling. There is something about Sarah, there is just so much love in this room, you cannot help but wonder....

This is not a one in a million story, this is happening all the time in many schools across Victoria, it could be the young man who delivers your paper, the girl next door. Worse, it could be your daughter, your nephew, your grandchild.

Chaplains are about God’s business, they are simply about keeping kids alive in spirit, in mind and body. They need your prayer and your support as we offer chaplaincy placements through primary and secondary schools around Victoria.

Being there for kids is not as hard as it may seem. Some of us are called into chaplaincy as a vocation but thousands of people around Victoria give half an hour of their time each week as Christian Religious Education teachers and assistants, teaching life skills and the love of Christ to primary school aged children. At ACCESS, we have young university students, parents, people at work, grandparents, aunties and uncles who come together in teams to teach the CRE programs in our schools. What we don't have but keenly looking for is a fisherman or two, but we will settle for anyone who realises the value of fishing for people instead!

Slide 16



Today I have invited XXXX to come and share his/her experience as a CRE teacher/chaplain in our local school.

(Invitation for a member of your church to speak on their experience of CRE or chaplaincy)
Or cut to a DVD of the ACCESS work.

Suggested questions for CRE teacher:

What prompted you to become a CRE teacher?

What does CRE teaching involve?

What has been your most rewarding or memorable experience?

What would you say to those thinking about becoming a CRE teacher?

Suggested questions for chaplain:

What prompted you to become a chaplain?

What are the main activities that you do each week?

What has been your most rewarding or memorable experience?

How can we support you in your school community?

If a CRE teacher or chaplain is not available (transcript of CRE teaching experience to be arranged)

Slide 17



The opportunity to be the expression of Christ in our community is both exciting and a challenge. “*The kingdom*” Jesus said, “*is near*”, the good news is unfolding and becoming. We can be part of this story.

This year ACCESS ministries are celebrating the 3500 CRE teachers assisting in schools around Victoria. We are also celebrating the 200 chaplains in 300 schools who are working, caring and challenging the lives of young Victorians.

We are celebrating the success of students who are learning life skills in the fight against cyber bullying, mental disorders, generational poverty, overcoming the after effects of the recent bushfires and the drought.

Slide 18



However, for many children in Victorian schools, the stories of the Bible will remain untold. The fishermen, the Creation, Easter and Christmas will have little or no significance. Faith and values will stay unexplored and life skills based on Christian principles may never be learnt.

There are many ways you can celebrate ACCESS Sunday and help us to be there for your children, your neighbours kids, your nieces and nephews, your grandchildren.

Becoming a CRE teacher is actually really easy, and it is very rewarding. Please speak to me or (name of interviewee) after the service or find a leaflet at the back of the church with the easy steps to becoming a CRE teacher or assistant in our area. ACCESS provides all the lesson materials and support you with training and a local team leaders and Support Officers.

Slide 19



Our chaplains and CRE teachers require a range of support, both prayer and practical. Some communities particularly in fire and drought affected areas struggle every year to meet their fund raising targets to secure a wage for their chaplain and these are the very districts that need a chaplain most. If you are able to assist us financially or prayerfully to help keep a chaplain on board or provide CRE teacher training please we invite you to contribute via our envelopes you received with your bulletins, and place them in the offering plate. To be able to shore up our chaplains in the most needed of areas is something that our kids need your support for. Please give as you can.

Slide 20

Closing prayer

Let us pray:
Loving God,
We ask that you may challenge us to become fishers of people,
who are longing to experience your love. Lord let us seek your
mission in our lives, what it means for each of us, what it
means for our church and our community. May we be
touched by your words, and Lord may we follow wherever you
lead us,

Lord, in your name,
Amen,



Closing prayer

Let us pray:

Loving God,

We ask that you may challenge us to become fishers of people, who are longing to experience your love. Lord let us seek your mission in our lives, what it means for each of us, what it means for our church and our community. May we be touched by your words, and Lord may we follow wherever you lead us,

Lord, in your name,

Amen,