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Subject: Re: New Beginnings

Posted by [Lillehafrue](#) on Mon, 30 Jul 2012 22:13:09 GMT

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Sunday, Jan. 20th, Christchurch, NZ, 11:25 am . . .

"I'm going to wait outside," Aaron told his mother, as he stood up from the pew as the service came to an end. This was their second week at the church and the teenager figured his parents would be hanging around talking for a while like they had the week before.

"Okay," Lana replied, as Aaron stepped past her into the aisle. "We won't be too long."

Aaron nodded as he headed for the exit, more than ready to get some fresh air. At least the pastor gives a good sermon, he thought, as he stepped outside of the Oxford Terrace Baptist Church. Aaron leaned against the nearest column and looked around the area, watching the cars driving by.

"Hello," a voice said bringing Aaron out of his thoughts. Aaron looked over in the direction of the voice to see that a boy about his age had come out of the church. "You're Aaron, right?"

"Yeah. How did you know my name?"

"Well, your family is the only new family in the church so it wasn't too hard to figure it out. Plus, along with being a plod, my dad is also the Youth Group Leader. He spoke to you last week about joining the Youth Group here."

Aaron nodded. "So, this week he put you up to it?"

The boy shrugged. "He thought you might take the invitation more seriously from a peer," he said with a shrug. "By the way, my name is Maru. My friends call me Ru," he continued, holding his hand out. The two boys shook hands. "Dad said your family moved here because your Dad is working for Tracy Industries. How come I haven't seen you around school?"

"I'm doing my schooling via an internet program. Was doing it back home and didn't see a reason to change when I came here."

"Wow. I don't think my parents would even consider letting me do something like that. However, that means you won't meet any other kids so joining us for Youth Group makes even more sense. My Dad actually manages to make the meetings interesting unlike the last youth leader. We're also planning a trip to go tramping in a couple weeks at Bottle Lake Forest."

"Tramping?"

Ru smiled. "I think you Americans call it hiking. We usually plan some kind of outing once a month. We all went ice skating a couple of weeks ago. So, what do you say?"

"I'll think about it," Aaron promised him.

"Great. My dad will be chuffed to hear that. Let me see your church program," Ru said, pointing to the program from that day's service that was sticking out of the top of Aaron's Bible. The teen complied, taking it from the front of the bible and handing it to the other boy. Ru wrote something across the top and then handed it back. "That's my number. Give me a ring and let me know what you decide. Our next meeting is Wednesday at seven."

"Okay," Aaron replied as he put the program back in the front of his Bible.

Just then, a couple of other teens called out a greeting to Ru, who returned the greeting. He then introduced them to Aaron. The teens chatted while they waited for their parents.