



WILLOW CREEK ASSOCIATION NZ

EVERYONE WINS WHEN A LEADER GETS BETTER!

Intellectually Rigorous—Creatively Inspiring—Unapologetically Christ Centred

Someone has to go to Willow Creek Community Church every year ... and that would be me. Sheer privilege!

This year I was the only WillowNZ staff member that travelled to Chicago. However, six other Kiwi leaders joined me for the two days at the live event. I gave each of them a score sheet to complete, (1 = lousy, 7 = brilliant), and after it was all over we had dinner together and discussed the results.

We asked two questions:

1. How did the talk impact you personally?
2. How suitable is the talk for a NZ audience?

Here is our pick for question two. The top four scored 7 out of 7:

Bill Hybels—*The Intangibles of Leadership*

Greg Groeschel—*Expanding Your Leadership Capacity*

Horst Schulze—*Creating World Class Service*

Sheila Heen—*Thanks for the Feedback*

The second four scored 6 or 6.5 out of 7:

Dr Brené Brown—*Rising Strong*

Jim Collins—*Seven Questions: Beyond Good to Great*

Brian Houston (interview with Bill Hybels)—*Resilience*

Liz Wiseman—*Rookie Smarts: Why Learning Beats Knowing*

So these talks will be included in our NZ programme. Please keep this in mind: I learnt long ago that rating speakers is a VERY subjective thing. However, an exercise like this does at least give an indication of how seven New Zealanders would rate these talks for a NZ audience.

Additionally, there were some powerful video pieces about leaders doing incredible things of which we will include one or two in our programme. And then not to be missed, and in top form for the third year in a row, was Michael Jr.

Now a word to Pastors: The interview Bill Hybels conducts with Brian Houston is, in my view, truly outstanding. Brian is asked some hard questions and he answers them head on, fair and square, including about his father's offending so many years ago. He's personal, honest and transparent, and my respect for him went up another notch or two. Then what follows

immediately after the interview is a special 20-minute segment where Bill and Brian reflect together on the power of an anointed song to minister to a Christian's soul and to bless people, especially when life is tough. The songs that are sung during this segment are from the *Hillsong* stable, a very fitting tribute. I loved it!

Truly GLS 2015 was another inspiring event proven by the fact that when the registrations opened for next year's GLS, during the morning session on the second day, would you believe the entire 5000 of the 7000 seats in the main auditorium were sold out in a record 38 minutes (2000 seats are block booked for international guests). The on-line registration system choked apparently. On the first day, the GLS was 'trending' in the social media space internationally. The GLS seems to be getting bigger and better the longer it is around!

So, why not jump onto our website right now, have a read of the speakers' Bios, check out the 2015 highlights video, AND then register to come to a venue near you sometime in October or November. Make it a date today!

See you at the Summit

Alan Vink

Executive Director - WillowNZ

www.willowcreek.org.nz

PS: Would you like to come to the live event next year? The dates are 11 and 12 August 2016. For more information please contact Joy on 07 853 6920 or joy@willowcreek.org.nz