

HALO

ST COLUMBA'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TARADALE

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From the Minister ~ Being a Peace Maker

I have been reading 'The Anatomy of Peace' by the Arbinger Institute. Where I lived in Hastings as a teenager was near the railway shunting yards. The engines would crash into the line of waiting carriages with a loud noise and the whole house would shake. But it wouldn't be just one noise it was crash, crash, crash, crash as one carriage collided with the next until the whole train was moving. Richard Rohr said we can either transmit hurt or transform. The train's energy was transmitted through the line of carriages one after another. The opposite is true when a stuntman jumps off a tall building and lands on a giant pillow and walks away unhurt. There the pillow absorbs the energy of the fall. The core idea behind the Anatomy of Peace is that our hearts need to be more like the air pillow than the train.

But how? In the Anatomy of Peace, they suggest that whenever we find ourselves defending, or justifying ourselves, or putting another person down or treating them as an object (an obstacle, an irrelevance or a tool (something/ someone helping us get what we want) it is an indicator we are at war – not peace and that we are likely to be transmitting pain not transforming it.

Instead of seeing people as objects, we see them as people – with hopes and dreams, fears and foibles like ourselves. This is easy to say but a real challenge. When we/I think I am better, or smarter, or that "I deserve X," then it often means the others persons wants or needs or personhood are less important, or even irrelevant, compared to my getting what I need. When that is the case, they are not equals me/us. The Anatomy of Peace is a secular book, it never mentions God at all, yet it closely parallels Jesus' call to Love, as true AGAPE is to see the other as a person and want what it best for them. The other way in which the book parallels Christianity is that it has a healthy sense of sin (it doesn't use that word). Our problems start when we resist a good thought or impulse to help. This failing, to mete out own higher desires, leads us to want to justify our failures. Not only do we justify ourselves, but we tend to blame the other, or exaggerate their faults, as a means of feeling okay about our resisting the urge to help. They call this self-deception.

The Anatomy of Peace also talks about us colluding with those who hurt us. For example if someone attacked me (complained), about my failure to listen to them, I am likely to not only feel under attack, but also pull away from them so that I end up listening even less. Our reaction to the hurt we experience leads us to act in such a way that ultimately justifies the thoughts of the person who attacked or criticised us. This can create a cycle of hurting others, others react to our accusing attitudes with accusing attitudes in return – and so the cycle continues.

They say that the core to living at peace with others is to start with ourselves – finding a heart at peace – (allow God to transform your heart and renew your mind) and then to live in Love – Agape treating people as people– Doing what is best for the other person – following the spirit's urges.

They also point out that when things go wrong – we often spend 80% of our time correcting others – which doesn't often work, and 20 % of our time helping things go right. They suggest a reversal of this – i.e. we spend 80% of our time helping things go right (training, building a relationship with the person, building relationships with their circle of peers who may reinforce bad behaviour and working on living with a heart of peace).

There is so much more in this book which is useful that I recommend reading the book or at least some of the resources online such as

[http://www.arbinger.com/downloads/what we are.pdf](http://www.arbinger.com/downloads/what_we_are.pdf)

[http://www.arbinger.com/downloads/who we are.pdf](http://www.arbinger.com/downloads/who_we_are.pdf)

May God bless you all, *Brett*

Material for December Halo in by 11 a.m. Wednesday 23rd November 2011 please

HB Tertiary Chaplaincy Trust

I got involved in this Trust in 2002 after a meeting was held at St Columba's with one of the Massey Chaplains. Since then we have formed a trust and been registered as a Charity under the Charities Commission.



I finished as a trustee in 2009. The Trust has employed two different chaplains plus had the services of several volunteer Chaplains. Chris Malcolm was the first Chaplain and has now joined the Staff at EIT but maintains his role as trustee. Poala Minehan is now the Coordinating Chaplain, along with our own Steve Demetrius and others spend time each week with the students and staff. (Paola's daughter and son come to youth group here, Petra sings in the Youth Band). Chaplaincy is about being the face of Christ on the campus – it is being his ears to listen, his hands to care, his feet to go. The chaplaincy team is an ecumenical group, with some Chaplains being from the Catholic Church and others from the Pentecostal churches as well as mainline churches like ourselves. The Chaplains have also been assisting with Operation Friendship which seeks to help churches befriend international students.

I have been very excited recently about the possibilities of our own Youth Trust being able to send youth workers into the high schools and we have heard from Mark and Steve about the opportunities they are already having in the high school – it is the same at EIT. Having permission to be present on campus as a recognised ministry is a great privilege and huge opportunity.

There are challenges with chaplaincy at the moment. Due to demand for space the chaplains lost their office and it is harder for them to meet people or find a quiet space for in depth conversations. Hopefully this will be resolved in the new year. The trust also has to raise money to support the work of the Coordinating Chaplain. You will see an envelope in this Halo and we would ask you to consider supporting the work of chaplaincy on EIT Campus. They are also looking for a Treasurer to assist the trust board.

Romans 10:14-15

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Brett

Christchurch Shoe Boxes

Yvonne Laing has reported as follows:

Recipients of the shoeboxes from St Columba's have included 30 boxes to the Linwood Community Trust for the family worker and health nurse to deliver to worthy recipients and boxes for women and children in a Women's Refuge. A beanie went to a cancer patient who had lost her hair and baby beanies to a Medical Centre and Women's Hospital for staff to give to needy patients. Also, an aran jumper went to an elderly man in his mid-80's who had been living in a shed after his home was damaged, he was freezing, and an elderly lady who had been trying to keep fit by walking but was finding it too cold who was delighted with her beanie. A lady whose husband had died was struggling to stay on top so was delighted with her box of goodies which gave her a much needed boost. Further went to two refugee families who thought all their Christmases had come at once. A woman who was struggling after her baby was still born, and felt unable to return to her 'ruined' home where her husband and three year old were struggling to patch it up, was given a box of cheer by Ron plus a beanie each. Linwood Church was serving coffee after Church and the lady whispered to Ron that it would be a bit weak, as they had run out of coffee so Ron was able to deliver tea etc. with perfect timing. An elderly man living alone in an empty street was given a box of cheer, which was gratefully received. A male sickness beneficiary, managing in a badly cracked home which was hard to keep warm, was delighted with his box of love gifts as he had no car so had to walk or use a push bike to travel across town to a supermarket.

Thank you Women's Fellowship for this information

School Holiday Programme

The October School Holiday Programme was a very busy time. It was also highly successful with a high of 67 children booked on one day. The Senior Christian programme was based on Creation, and the Junior Christian programme on Jesus being there for us. It was set in the Amazon jungle. The senior programme generally involved off base activities, which prevented any mixed age problems.

Based on parent and children feedback the programmes were highly appreciated. The parents of the junior children were given handouts at the end of each day with a list of games and 'to do' projects that would reinforce the Christian message.

The programme is arranged so the children have Christian Education and activities on Monday, Wednesday and Friday with off base trips on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Christian content involves stories, bible memory verses, puppet shows, games, films, and craft projects.

Our off site trips covered sk8zone, rock wall climbing, swimming and ten-pin bowling among other things.

As the weather was quite inclement at times, the staff were kept busy entertaining the children. Play-dough fights are not recommended as removing the dough from carpets is not a simple job. (Have you learnt anything from that Jim?)

Mid-week Service and Anne Foreman

Wednesday morning of September 28th was a special time for the "aged-care" residents who attended our Mid Week Service. Hostess-in-chief, Jeanette Barker, looking very official in her coach's gear, welcomed the more than 40 "oldies" to the "All Blacks" themed morning. Most of the residents had worn something black/white; Ian McLeod had arranged black/white table posies; All Black flags adorned mobility scooters; the helpers wore their AB shirts. The guest speaker, Barry Neale, told us of his time spent in the Junior All Blacks, fully illustrated with his memorabilia.

A special moment was when a wee girl who attended Mainly Music stopped to admire the toy kiwi atop an AB cap worn by one of our gentlemen – she thought it was really cute! The gentleman thought she was too!

It is timely to give thanks to our friend, Anne Foreman. For more than ten years, and almost every month, Anne supplied the sandwiches for Mid Week Service morning tea. Anne always said that it was "no trouble". We are well aware that on some occasions it must have been a burden to her. With Anne's funeral service being held in the afternoon, Wednesday morning of September 28th was a happy/sad occasion for the crew of Mid Week Service.

Thanks be to God for our friend - Anne Foreman – truly "a cheerful giver".

Reading and Prayer

Reading: "No, the Lord has told us what is good. What he requires of us is this: to do what is just, to show constant love and to live in humble fellowship with our God."

Micah 6:8

Prayer: Dear Lord, in your wonderful wisdom guide us as we vote for our leaders. Guide the leaders of our world to peace and may it start in our own hearts for your honour and glory, Amen.



For the Children - Reasons and Seasons

Sometimes you go to school and the boy or girl who was your friend the day before suddenly does not want to be your friend anymore. They have another best friend. That makes you very sad and sometimes it makes you cry. When that happens, you sometimes say bad things about them because you are hurt and upset. You have done nothing wrong and do not know why they no longer want to be your friend. It does not seem fair does it?

So what should you do when your friend does not want to be your friend anymore? Should you say bad things about them, should you start a fight with them, or should you poke your tongue out at them?

Well, you can do several things. The main thing is that if they will listen, tell them that you are sad they do not want to be your friend anymore, but also tell them to have fun with their new friend and that you still like them. If they will not listen, or do not want to listen, or say bad things about you, leave them alone and do not go near them. You then find a new friend.

You see, people and friends come into your life, group or team for what is called a reason or a season. God puts them with you, either to teach you something or for you to teach them something. That is the reason for them being in your life. It may be God wants you to learn how to forgive people who do wrong things. He may arrange for a friend or person you know to do something wrong to you so that you can forgive them, or you may do something wrong to them and by them forgiving you, you learn how to forgive. God has put that person in your life for a reason – for you to learn something.

It may be that God has put you in a Sunday school class and the Sunday school teacher stays with you for all the time you are in the junior class to teach you about Jesus, and how to be a Christian. When you go on to Youth Group, you may never see that Sunday school teacher ever again. They have been in your life for a season, a period of time, to teach you about Jesus and being a Christian.

While it is sad when you lose a friend, you must understand that God has put them in your life for a reason or a season. They are there to teach you something, or for you to teach them something. You may never know what the reason is but when they leave, it is because neither you, nor they, can learn anymore from each other. So, be sad, but know that God has another friend waiting for you.

by Jim Payton

There Is Love All Around

Where is love found?
 In a bright sunny smile,
 in the laugh of a neighbour,
 who visits a while,
 in the hands when they're clasping in prayer,
 Love is there.

Where is love found?
 In a child's trusting eyes,
 in the kisses that come
 with hellos and good-byes.
 In homes warm with patience and care ...
 Love is there.

Where is love found?
 In the way that we live,
 in the friendships we cherish,
 the help that we give,
 in hearts that are willing to share ...
 Love is there.

by Amanda Bradley (Thanks Bruce McLeod)

We have been watching a miracle of God's healing grace in the lives of some dear friends. It made me think of a favourite go-to song during difficult parts of the journey. The song, Bless the Broken Road, became a hit for the group Selah. Here are some of the lyrics.

*I set out on a narrow way, many years ago
Hoping I would find true love, along the broken road
But I got lost a time or two, wiped my brow and kept pushing through
I couldn't see how every sign, pointed straight to you*

It is so interesting to look back over the landscape of over three decades of this journey with Jesus. I can see God's hand in so many events and even heartbreak in my life. My early church experience was a broken road of legalistic and judgmental Christians who crushed the spirit of a young and fumbling Christian. That experience became the basis of my books. I have found many friends who have shared my journey. C.S. Lewis once said that 'Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, "What! You too? I thought I was the only one!"' Sadly, many of us bear the wounds of dealing with imperfect people in the dysfunctional little gathering we call church. Still, God has blessed that broken road.

The broken road for me included the devastating death of a beloved nephew thirty-four years ago. That point was a crossroads in my faith. Turn my back on God or get serious in my pursuit of Him. Along the broken road God brought a man named Wendel Deyo into my life (Wendel now heads up a retreat centre in Southern Ohio). His life challenged me and he helped me stay on the narrow way. That relationship led to my association with Athletes in Action. And, while on staff with AIA I met the lovely future Mrs Burchett. Again, God blessed the broken road.

*Every long lost dream, led me to where you are
Others who broke my heart, they were like northern stars
Pointing me on my way, into your loving arms
This much I know is true
That God blessed the broken road
That led me straight to you
Yes He did*

It is hard to imagine life without Joni. Her cancer forced me to realize the possibility of that. Now that she is a four-year survivor, I am grateful but I pray I will never again take her for granted.

*I think about the years I spent, just passin' through
I'd like to have the time I lost, and give it back to you*

I remember with great sadness the years I spent working too much, taking my bride for granted, telling her that the schedule would soon "ease up". But it rarely did. I really wish I had that time back. I would give it to her in a heartbeat. If I could say one thing to young couples and parents it would be to make time for your mate and your children. It took me too long to realize the truth that our schedule reflects our priorities. But somehow Joni hung with me. She had travelled her own broken road.

*But you just smile and take my hand, you've been there you understand
It's all part of a grander plan, that is comin' true
Every long lost dream, led me to where you are
Others who broke my heart, they were like northern stars
Pointing me on my way, into your loving arms
This much I know is true
That God blessed the broken road
That led me straight to you*

The journey is not easy. Never will be. One of the big mistakes we make in sharing our faith is making it seem like all troubles are over when you embrace Christianity. That is not in the contract. We will still have problems, heartaches, and even tragedies. But God will bless the broken road. King David wrote these words while escaping down a broken road...

*The LORD is close to the brokenhearted;
he rescues those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18*

C.S. Lewis also said that no one ever told him that grief felt so much like fear. Don't be afraid to continue down the broken road. God will meet you there.

Dave Burchett is an Emmy Award winning television sports director, author, and Christian speaker. He is the author of When Bad Christians Happen to Good People and Bring'em Back Alive: A Healing Plan for those Wounded by the Church. You can reply by linking through daveburchett.com.

A Conversation

God said, "Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honeybees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles."

St. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colourful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it-sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS: No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses, pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it, and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No!? What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST CATHERINE: 'Dumb and Dumber', Lord. It's a story about....

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.

Thanks Judy Trim

Six Things We Must Get Right, or It's All Over

In the Lord's work as in anything else in life, there are essentials and non-essentials. There are the load bearing features and cosmetic for-appearance-only aspects. If we don't know which is which, we're in big trouble. Here is my list of "six load-bearers," six essentials that we must get right in the Lord's work or it's all over.

Please let me point out up front, these are not arranged in the order of priority.

1. SUBMISSION

"...be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. (Ephesians 5:21)

"...Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account..." (Hebrews 13:17)

Yes, followers are to submit to leaders. But - and pastors should not miss this - leaders are frequently to submit to their congregations. To submit means that when you and I disagree, one of us willingly and freely gives in to the other. No coercion, no pulling of rank, no holier-than-thou lording it over the other.

2. UNITY

"...being diligent to preserve the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:3)

In the Garden, Jesus asked the Father, "That they all may be one... that the world may believe that Thou didst send me" (John 17:21).

When a church -- much less the larger body of Christ! -- is not unified, everything grinds to a halt. Evangelism is forgotten, nothing is done. Members spend their time bickering and fighting, the godly among them are exasperated, the hurting and needy are neglected, the enemy rejoices and the devil has a field day. When a church is unified and everything else is in order, the work goes more smoothly, people are ministered to, Christ is honoured, God is exalted, and the enemy is defeated.

In training sessions, I remind leaders that one of their prime functions is to preserve the unity of the congregation. That means staying on the alert and dealing with dissension and rebellion when it occurs. This principle (of nipping rebellion in the bud) can be abused, of course. There is a proper time and place for criticism of leaders.

3. LEADERSHIP

"That the leaders led in Israel, and that the people volunteered, O bless the Lord!" (Judges 5:2)

Someone has to stand out front and say, "This is the way." The problem with being a leader is that you have to lead. Show me a church where the pastor is a follower, where he refuses to exercise courage, and I will show you a church that is doing nothing.

4. FELLOWSHIP

"And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." (Acts 2:42)

Fellowship is sometimes called "Body Life." The idea is the members of the congregation know one another and work together, both formally and informally. There are scheduled times for fellowship, such as a retreat when members spend a weekend or more together. Informal fellowship occurs when they sit in the bleachers and watch the church softball team play or enjoy an ice cream social after church. In the first, they work together, in the second they hang out together. Both are absolutely essential.

If a member of my body hurts, the rest of my body stays up all night out of sympathy. (See *1 Corinthians 12:12-31*) If disease or infection invades my body, the rest of the body sends resources to fight it. It isn't for nothing that Scriptures call the church "the body of Christ" (see *Ephesians 1:23*).

5. ACCOUNTABILITY

"So then, each one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12). "...and you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous" (Luke 14:14).

A healthy church builds in proper accountability, both for the laity and the leadership. Sunday school teachers must be accountable to leaders as to what they teach; otherwise, disaster looms. Financial workers must be subject to regular inspection and proper accountability. Pastors are accountable generally to every member and specifically to .../

8 Six Things We Must Get Right, or It's All Over cont...

certain leaders in the church. Whether it's a formal group or an informal collection of the mature, no pastor should be allowed to spend freely and commit the church to projects without the support of the larger team of leaders. If his preaching begins to be questionable, some group - preferably not an individual - has to be the proper ones to approach him on behalf of the congregation.

6. PRAYER

"And He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to quit" (Luke 18:1)

Pray or quit. Get the church to praying or forget about making any kind of decent impact on this world for Christ. Enlist and train the members in prayer or mark the church off as existing in the flesh and insignificant in the work of the Kingdom.

"How is your church doing?" my friend asked a pastor. "We're on life support," was the answer." "Oh? That bad?" The preacher said, "Far from bad, that's the norm. Every church worth the name is on life support -- the 'life' being the Holy Spirit. Unplug the church from the power of the Spirit and it dies." How's your church's life support system?

These are not the only essentials in the operation of the Lord's church. Each of us will have our own list. These are mine.

Dr. Joe McKeever is a Preacher, Cartoonist, and the Director of Missions for the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans. Visit him at joemckeever.com/mt.

Denominationalism

Written by Bob & Debby Gass via The Word for Today broadcast by Radio Rhema

'That all of them may be one...' John 17:21 NIV

This may come as a shock, but the Book of Life doesn't record your denomination next to your name. In Heaven, there are no religious labels. If someone has the right to call Jesus 'Lord', you must treat them as your brother and sister regardless of which church they attend. We're all related by blood - the blood of Jesus! As believers the Bible tells us to 'preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace' (Ephesians 4:3 NAS). Notice, God doesn't tell us to create unity, He tells us to preserve it.

Comedian Elmo Phillips used to tell this story: 'In a conversation with a person I had recently met, I asked, "Are you a Protestant or a Catholic?" My new acquaintance replied, "Protestant." I said, "Me too!" I asked, "What franchise?" He answered, "Baptist." "Me too!" I said. "Northern Baptist or Southern Baptist?" "Northern Baptist," he replied. "Me too!" I shouted. We continued to go back and forth. Finally, I asked, "Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist, Great Lakes Region, Council of 1879, or Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist, Great Lakes Region, Council of 1912?" He replied, "'Northern Conservative Fundamentalist Baptist, Great Lakes Region, Council of 1912.'" I said, "Die, heretic!"

Seriously, do you know what Jesus prayed for? 'That all of them may be one...so that the world may believe.' A divided church is a wounded and weak church. Have you ever considered what would happen if we downplayed our labels and put our contents on display? Maybe we wouldn't need signs outside our door to attract people, because they'd be drawn by the love of those inside. It's worth thinking about, isn't it?

The Word for You Today and The Word for Today can be accessed via email at w4u2day@rbg.co.nz or in booklets in the church foyer.

Leadership

Want to become a good leader? Become a good listener! Here are two stories of what happens when we don't take time to listen.

The first is from a young woman hurt by a manager who constantly cut her off: 'We expected he would wait and give us answers to serious questions about our work. Many times he walked off when we were in mid-sentence, having heard nothing.' The next is from a church youth director who was fired: 'After serving the Lord there for two years, I was called into an elders' meeting. They took out a list of all the things I'd done wrong in the past two years. Most of what they said was true, for I was brand new in this work. Then they called for my resignation. What did I learn? (a) Not once did anyone care enough to coach or shepherd me; (b) I'd no idea or warning that I was doing anything wrong; (c) the church leaders never built a relationship with their staff.'

Why is it so hard for some leaders to listen? Because leaders love to talk, and as they gain more authority, there is the danger to think they have less reason to listen. Leaders by their very nature tend to be removed from the frontlines of battle. To win, they must constantly listen to those who are in the trenches and rely on that information to make wise decisions. Before Ezekiel was qualified to prophesy or lead God's people, he wrote, '...I sat among them for seven days - overwhelmed. At the end of seven days the Word of the Lord came to me' (Ezekiel 3:15-16 NIV).

...Be quick to listen, slow to speak...' James 1:19 NLT

From The Word for Today written by Bob & Debbie Gass and forwarded by New Zealand's Rhema and Rhema Broadcasting Group Incorporated

Suffering for the glory of God

More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5:3-5

One of the most common questions I hear from believers and sceptics alike is "If God is good, then why do bad things happen to good people?" And it's true that people who are genuinely good-hearted will experience suffering in their life. Furthermore, the Bible is clear that God doesn't just *allow* suffering; God is often the active agent in the trials of His faithful people. It was God who first told Satan about Job (Job 1:8), who would eventually have everything taken away from him, but would be proven faithful. God also gave Paul the opportunity to show his faithfulness through suffering so that he would be humbled and realize that God's grace is sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

Many times when I hear testimonies from Christians, they follow this pattern: I was bad... God saved me... and now things are just terrific. But, if you really get into the life of any faithful Christian, you'll see some level of suffering. So when hard times come and God gives you a season of suffering, how will you suffer? Will you walk around bitter and angry because you never did anything to deserve this? Or, will you hear that same voice of God that spoke to Paul saying, *My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.*

Listen to the voice of God in the midst of your suffering and allow Him to lead you to a deeper relationship with Him.

From crosswalk.com by Dr. Jack Graham

Big Mud Puddles and Sunny Yellow Dandelions

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take - but by the moments that take our breath away."

When I look at a patch of dandelions, I see a bunch of weeds that are going to take over my yard.

My kids see flowers for Mom and blowing white fluff you can wish on.

When I look at an old drunk and he smiles at me, I see a smelly, dirty person who probably wants money and I look away.

My kids see someone smiling at them and they smile back.

When I hear music I love, I know I can't carry a tune and don't have much rhythm so I sit self-consciously and listen.

My kids feel the beat and move to it. They sing out the words. If they don't know them, they make up their own.

When I feel wind on my face, I brace myself against it. I feel it messing up my hair and pulling me back when I walk.

My kids close their eyes, spread their arms and fly with it, until they fall to the ground laughing.

When I pray, I say thee and thou and grant me this, give me that.

My kids say, "Hi God! Thanks for my toys and my friends. Please keep the bad dreams away tonight. Sorry, I don't want to go to Heaven yet. I would miss my Mommy and Daddy."

When I see a mud puddle I step around it. I see muddy shoes and dirty carpets. My kids sit in it. They see dams to build, rivers to cross, and worms to play with.

I wonder if we are given kids to teach or to learn from? No wonder God loves the little children! Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things.

I wish you Big Mud Puddles and Sunny Yellow Dandelions!!!

Halo is sorry but cannot remember who forwarded this (Jim forgot to note it down at the time) but thank you.

Gardeners

For the Garden of Your Daily Living, Plant

THREE ROWS OF PEAS:

Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul

FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:

Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be patient
Lettuce really love one another

TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE THYME:

Thyme for each other
Thyme for family
Thyme for friends

FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS:

Turnip for meetings
Turnip for service
Turnip to help one another



Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

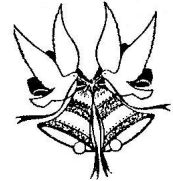
As you pass by, happy gardening and may you listen carefully for the 'nudges' of the Holy Spirit and follow up the nudges!

Once again, Jim forgot to note the sender – Sorry but thank you whoever you are.

Cradle Roll Aimee Argent 14th November 5 years

Bereavements We extend our love and sympathy to the families and friends of Betty Munro, Mavis Roythorne and Elwena Andrews..

Congratulations to Sue and Brett upon the marriage of your son Paul to Mary Cummings on 5th November.



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What's on in October

Wednesday 16th November 7.30 p.m. Board of Managers monthly meeting in the lounge
Thursday 17th November 1.45 p.m. Missionary Guild
Friday 18th November 2.00 p.m. Visitor Training meeting in the church lounge
Tuesday 22nd November 7.30 p.m. Women's Evening Fellowship
Wednesday 23rd November 10.30 a.m. Mid Week Service Christmas Service
Thursday 24th November 7.30 p.m. Session meeting
Sunday 4th December 9.30 a.m. Celebration of Holy Communion

Regular events

Mondays House Group 7.00 p.m. (fortnightly) Contact: Pat Gordon 844 2188
Tuesdays Op Shop open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact: Cynthia Duncan 845 3539
 Prayer Group 11.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Contact: Marjory Yelverton 843 5331
 House Group 7.30 - 9 p.m. Contact: Bob Wallis 844 5630
 House Group 7.30 - 9 p.m. Contact: Robin Arnold 844 7808
 Women's Fellowship meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month
Wednesdays Mainly Music 9.30 a.m. - 10.30 a.m. Contact: Margaret de la Haye 843 2272
 Op Shop open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact: Cynthia Duncan 845 3539
 Youth - 'Pimp My Ride' 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Contact: Mark Seek 027 478 9404
 Board of Managers meet at 7.30 p.m. in the church lounge on the third Wednesday
Thursdays Mainly Music 9.30 a.m. - 10.30 a.m. Contact: Karen Jensen 843 9447
 Op Shop open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact: Cynthia Duncan 845 3539
 Missionary Guild meets on the third Thursday of the month
 Session meet at 7.30 p.m. in the church lounge on the fourth Thursday
Fridays Youth - 'Contact' 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Contact: Mark Seek 027 478 9404

Don't Complain, Do Something

Past the seeker, as he prayed, came the crippled, the beggar and the beaten. Seeing them he cried, "Great God, how is it that a loving Creator can see such things and yet do nothing about them?" God said, "I did do something, I made you." No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted.

Thank you Bruce McLeod

Church Office Phone and Fax 844-5004 Monday—Friday 9.30am—12.00pm
If no reply, please leave a message and we will call you back as soon as we can.

Church Postal Address:

P O Box 7136, Taradale

Minister	Rev Brett WALKER	844-2256
Session Clerk	Pam THRUPP	835-5785
Parish Assistant—Youth	Mark SEEK	027 478 9404
Pastoral Care	Robin ARNOLD	844-7808
Communication	Dot McLEOD	844-1211
Af Care/Holiday Programme	Peter WOOTEN (convenor)	843-7770
Change of Address	Church Office	844-5004
HALO - Editor	Jim Payton	843-3937
- Distribution	Wendy GOSLING	844-0282

Services – Sunday 9.30 am morning worship

Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of March, August and December and the second Sunday of June, plus Easter and World Communion Day.



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