

A PLACE TO BELONG

PARISH OF POHANGINA



The Herald

August 2019

Spiritual Ways to keep Winter Woes at Bay, by Helen Arbon

Power assist is one of the best features of my electric bike - it helps when going uphill and when battling the wind and weather.

The Winter part of our life's journey can be "uphill" and we welcome little boosts from the Trinity via the Holy Spirit to help us on our way.

There is a picture in The Good News Bible of people helping with each others' burdens (World Vision uses this image too) and it reminds us of the scripture for "my yoke is easy and my burden is light" in Matthew 11:30.

Everybody in the line has a bundle to carry.

God makes allowances in His personalised plan for our lives so that we can assist with some-one-else's burden on the occasions when they are weary or overburdened by life's aggravations and vice versa.

On studying the parable of the Unforgiving Servant I was reminded about a saying which I heard from Beverly Shepherd of CWR (Christian World Revival).

She emphasised the importance of "keeping our wounds clean".

Managing sin (our own and those of other people's, and the fact we live in a world that is inherently imperfect) is as hard as the fact of sin's inevitability.

Jesus emphasises the absolute necessity for forgiveness.

It is the message of the Cross. He came to model how to forgive.

The Lord's Prayer is the one special prayer Jesus gave us precise words for.

The NZCP page181 puts it like this,

"in the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us"

and The Message's take on Jesus' intention from Matthew 6; 5 - 15 is "keep us forgiven with you and with others".

I don't like admitting this, but I fully empathise with the Unforgiving Servant in the parable in Matthew 18; 21- 35.

The book "Freedom in Christ" by Neil T Anderson and Steve Goss claims that "Satan's greatest access to Christians is often through the sin of unforgiveness."

I guess that, because we have an inbuilt sense of justice (God is a God of justice and we are created in His image), it is fair enough to feel aggrieved when we perceive we have been wronged.

Forgiveness for me is uphill work and this is when I ask for a "power assist" prayer boost from good supportive friends.

For a start they do not judge me, nor do they behave like Job's "comforters."

They take on Christ's role as in Luke 4; 18 (KJV) by setting "at liberty them that are bruised"

They do this through prayer, and in practical ways by generally cheering me up by "practicing hospitality" and/or taking me to a place of God-given beauty like the bush or Esplanade.

This can heal my spirit over time as long as I intend to be healed.

It restores a proper cosmic perspective on the "injustice" without trivialising the injury

Sy Rogers makes comparisons between biology and theology in his talk "Dunk until you are Done" about Elisha's healing of Naaman's leprosy.

As a nurse I learned that flesh wounds need to heal by the granulation of healthy tissue from the bottom of the wound to the skin surface; and also that wounded people are vulnerable from intercurrent infection.

Intercurrent infection occurs when germs that live in the air can inhabit not just the wounds themselves, but other places where the body is weakened.

Chest infections can be a case in point if the patient's breathing is too shallow for a lot of the time.

Therefore if we have wounds caused by "sinning through ignorance weakness and our own deliberate fault" or as innocent sufferers on the receiving end of other people's sin, we need to deal with the spiritual wound just as intentionally and methodically as we do when we are bodily sick for complete healing.

The treatment for the wounds is just the same whether we deserve the wounds or not.

To summarise:

Contamination by sin's wounds and poisoning is inevitable.

We have resources to cope:

Scripture: Isaiah 43: 2,3 God will never leave me on my own, wise friends and power assistance from the Holy Spirit until our journey's end.

Bishops' News July 2019

See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.
[Isaiah 43:19, NIV]

Kia ora whanau

In the last month in our land we have witnessed Matariki celebrations in which we acknowledge the coming of a new season and look forward to the promise of spring and new life. Even in the part of the year where the darkness seems endless, God is unchangingly faithful in transforming his people into new creations.

This month has been a full one in the diocesan calendar. Our AYM team took over 150 young people to Discipleship Camp – 150 young people gathering intentionally to go deeper with God! And God worked among this group in miraculous ways, with healings and with many committing and re-committing their lives to follow Him.

When anyone says yes to Jesus they become a new creation – as His church we are surrounded by new creations and we must never forget that is what we exist for. Each generation creates a new expression of what it means to be His people – and so following Discipleship Camp our AYM team have established a youth service, hosted in our mother church – run and lead by young people – to engage in worship and to continue to go deeper together exploring the 'I Am' sayings of Jesus. Three weeks in, this has been a phenomenal experience each time. All are welcome, not just our youth and young adults! We are here for the vibrancy of our young people's faith – so bring a car load next week, or ask your youth leaders in your parishes how you can support this.

This month too, we spent time exploring with a group of people who have offered themselves for discernment to the Vocational Diaconate. At the marae where the weekend was held, we heard from tangata whenua about the weaving gatherings held for pregnant mothers and their mothers, friends and supporters.

Together they gathered to make wahakura – sleeping baskets for newborns – with flax gathered by the marae, and each basket furnished with donations of home made bedding and garments from the wider Pahiataua community. Each wahakura is a beautiful expression of what it means to be Christ's body for the next generation – with God's help each of us are bringing forth the future; bringing forth life – supporting where there new life is growing. We collaborate together, across multiple generations, and provide the wrap around of a whole community.

In your prayer and devotion times this month, we encourage you to reflect on what it means to help to bring new life to God's church in your context. Who can you encourage as they step out in faith, whether young or not so young, so that God's church continues to resound with the coming of spring:

All around them, though out of sight, there were streams chattering, bubbling, splashing and even (in the distance) roaring. And his heart gave a great leap (though he hardly knew why) when he realised that the frost was over. (Edmund, realising Aslan was coming, from The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe)

In Christ,
+Justin and +Eleanor

Environment: The European Part, by Russell Lyon

When I visited Europe, the actions they were taking make us look like dinosaurs. They are taking little steps and taking the people with them and achieving big goals.

When in Vienna, I went on a bus trip to Bratislava (Slovakia) going past the local refuse centre. The centre was surrounded by hectares of glass house. What they do is collect up all the waste and put in big digesters thereby creating methane gas. This gas was then used to heat the glass houses growing about 50% of the vegetables that is consumed in the city. They even have strawberries in February (mid winter) and the solid waste is used to grow the plants in. This is recycling at its best.

Travelling the Danube River is governed by the river levels. Last autumn the river levels were so low the boats could not operate, making trade more difficult. (There are a large number of freight barges operating on the river carrying everything from oil to containers) Realising that they need to control the river levels they have built weirs and locks, but not enough. On the section we travelled, they intend to build three more. This will increase the amount of river traffic as well as generating more electricity with the surplus water flowing over the weirs.

Back in the 1970's the Germans decided to link the Danube river system with the Rhine river system so that freight could go from the north of Europe through to the Black Sea, a shorter and quicker route than going around through the Straits of Gibraltar. When they had the canal about half completed, the Government said it was too expensive and closed down construction. However, after the next election the new administration saw the economic value in it by getting trucks off the road, completed the canal. When it first opened in 1992 some of the towns along the canal only saw about 17 river cruisers a week but now may see up to 10 a day. Also the number of freight barges has increased dramatically.

We were told that the use of river transport is increasing faster than most other forms of freight movement as it is more environmentally friendly. It was not uncommon to pass up to 10 or more freight barges an hour. It even surprised me to find out that on one day while in Budapest, that there were 93 boats in the harbour, about 50% freight barges.

I visited a German farm and it was noticeable that they have little problem with nitrate leeching from their cattle, as we do with our dairy farms. On this farm they fattened 570 bulls, which spent all their 17 months of life indoors, having the food carted to them. This visit answered the queries we had as to why we had seen so few farm animals outdoors. The waste was collected into digesters for methane production. This gas was either sold or used to provide heat to the farm house and sheds. (The farm next door only used its land to grow biomass to produce Methane gas)

Prior to arrival in Amsterdam, we were told to beware of the “killer” bikes. Bikes have priority over all other forms of transport except trams. Don't pay attention when crossing a bike lane and you could be in trouble. Bike lanes are everywhere, while cars are regulated to narrow single lanes. But surprisingly taxis and minibuses are allowed to travel down the area reserved for the tram. It's an eerie feeling to be travelling down a tramline and having a tram pass you going the other way while the car drivers are being held up in the usual traffic jams.

The Dutch have enacted a law that the sale of fossil fuel vehicles will be banned by 2025. This has allowed the Dutch to be more creative in their transport requirements. I saw a lot of two seater minicars on the streets. They were very silent and very nippy around town. By small, I mean about 1.3m wide and 1.8m long. (Great little love bugs as the ones I saw mostly had young drivers in them)

Buying a small tub of ice-cream, that here would normally come in a plastic container, was in a cardboard one and there was much encouragement to recycle them.

An explorer once said that he was going to kayak across Canada, said it was not a 3000km journey but a kilometre journey repeated many times. Saving our environment is similar. It a big task but if we each do a small step, then we all can achieve the bigger goal. What is your small step?

Summary of Vestry Meeting 17 July 2019

The following is a brief summary of the topics that were discussed at the last (short) Vestry Meeting:-

- Church roof—quotation received to treat the lichen and mould on the roof. This has been approved and will go ahead.
- Vestry away day—this has been put on hold for now, until there is a need.
- Dessert Evening—discussions have been summarised
- Notice board —suggested mock security cameras be mounted on the church to deter people changing the sign

Finances for June 2019:

Above budget in income

Below budget in outgoings.

Tithes and Offerings; Malachi 3:10, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

We give because;

- *It is an act of honour and obedience when we give God the first and best of everything we own. (Proverbs 3:9-10)*
- *It acknowledges that God is our provider. (Philippians 4:19)*
- *It is an opportunity to imitate God's generosity. (Ephesians 5:12)*
- *It maintains that our possessions do not control or define us. (Luke 12:34)*
- *It is one of the ways God involves us in the good work He does throughout the earth. (Philippians 2:13)*

Offertory recording allows parishioners to claim a rebate from IRD after 31 March each year. In April receipts are issued with total giving for each person/family for the previous year. If you would like to be part of this system using envelopes or automatic payments please talk to Helen or Lyn.

Services for August 2019

4th 8.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Ashhurst
11th 10.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Komako
18th 10.00 am Ashhurst
25th 10.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Komako

Prayer Breakfasts 2019—8am start

June, July & August: no breakfast
September 7th, Saturday: Penny & Ric
October 5th, Saturday: Alva
November 2nd, Saturday: Noeline
December 7th, Saturday: Barbara & Michael
February 1st, 2020, Saturday: Penny & Ric

Dates for your Diary

21st August, Wednesday: Vestry Meeting, 7.30pm

House Groups

Monday evenings 7.45pm - 9.45pm

At either Ric and Penny Foxley's 100 Worcester Street, 3268887

Or Mike and Barbara Russell's 144 Winchester Street 3268547



Bible Quiz

Noah's Ark

Match the question with the answer on the right.

- ___ What was the name of Noah's father?
- ___ How long was Noah's ark?
- ___ What was Noah's ark made out of?
- ___ How many pairs of each 'clean' animal did Noah take on the ark?
- ___ How old was Noah when the Flood started?
- ___ What did the dove bring back to Noah?
- ___ On which mountain range did Noah's ark rest?
- ___ How many people were saved in the ark?
- ___ What did Noah build when he came out of the ark?
- ___ What was the sign of the covenant between YHWH and Noah?

1. Six hundred years
2. Altar
3. Seven
4. Mountains of Ararat
5. 300 cubits
6. Eight
7. Lamöch
8. Olive leaf
9. A rainbow
10. Gopher wood



www.biblepathwayadventures.com

PETER HEALS THE LAME BEGGAR



Discover the hidden words.



Word Bank

APOSTLES
JAIL
CRIPPLED
BEAUTIFUL

WALK
BEGGAR
PETER
LAME

HEALING
JESUS
JOHN
GOLD



ShareFaith
PREVIEW ONLY

