



The Weekly Jog

Volume 2, Issue 19 Jog: to nudge, to give a reminder, *jog* the memory

May 7th 2008

"The New Plymouth Church Family Experiencing and Sharing the Transforming Power of Jesus."

Our Challenge to Stay the Course

We live in a unique world—seen and unseen factors abound. God challenges us to process both types of information and make reasonable, faithful decisions. This is, however, much easier said than done!

From the "**Seen Arena**" we have realities to face when we speak good words for Jesus. Some have their minds made up, others don't care, the time factor discourages more than a few, marriage complications can present thorny circumstances. In short, not all the soil is ready to receive the seed of the word. This can be very discouraging as well as intimidating.

Then there is the "**Unseen Arena.**" The realities here are more distant to us at times, faith is required to bring them into sharp focus (II Cor. 5:7). We are much more prone to base our judgments and emotions on the tangible components of our visible world. We want a harvest and if we can just choose the right strategies and tactics, results will abound. The unseen, however, reveals how the project of evangelism is not first about our skills (cf. I Cor. 3:6).

The broad way is still the broad way, as is the fact the narrow way remains rather thin (Matt. 7:13-14). Most hearts don't receive the word very well (Matt. 13:18-23). Many are called, but few are chosen (Matt. 22:14).

Now that I've *encouraged you to pieces*, please listen to the rest of the story. The harvest is still plentiful and many workers actually desperately needed (Matt. 9:37).

Few, you see, is a relative term when it comes to honest seekers—remember there are more than six billion of us on planet earth. Even more than that, extraordinary things can still occur (Jn. 4:34-42)! Yet, even with realistic, biblical encouragement, the bottom line of the unseen domain often remains distant from our sighted hunches. A Solomon-like way of voicing this might be, "When all is said, the conclusion of the matter is this: speak good words for Jesus because God wants them spoken" (cf. Ecc. 12:13). Not primarily because we get results, we may not get them. Not principally because we have chosen potentially effective strategies, increase originates elsewhere and today's effective tactic is often tomorrow's failure. Not even chiefly due to Scripture telling us to spread the good news, commandments alone make cold companions. More than for any other reason, the God of all creation who sent His Son to die for us would have it so. If we can anchor to that one thing, we will

stay the course Our food, as with Jesus, must be doing our Father's will (cf. Jn. 4:34). Everything short of this personal attachment will at some point fail and disappoint, this alone will make us conquer even when the world sees failure (Jn. 14:15; Rom. 8:31-39)! (Edwin Jones)

Freedhardeman Students:

These students arrive in New Plymouth on May 14th at 10 a.m. They will be with us until the 29th at which point they will, on the 30th May, be going to Palmerston North for the FHU camp. While here the students will be involved in the local work letterboxing, doorknocking and running the 'Super Saturday' kids programme. I want to thank those who have opened their homes to house the students. A full program can be viewed on the notice board in the foyer

Super Saturday: Set down for Saturday 24th.

This year we will be looking at Daniel in the lions den. The day starts at 2p.m. and continues through to 4p.m. followed by a sausage sizzle at 4:15. It will be a great time for our kids.

With such activities going on don't forget that you, as a member of the congregation, can be involved. This effort is a congregational effort. (Eph 4:16) Make it a family time together.



'Super Saturday'
Saturday 24th May; 2p.m.



The Common Sense of a Billy Goat

By Teresa Hampton

Imagine for a moment, if you would, this scene. There are two mountain goats who meet each other on a narrow ledge just wide enough for one of the animals to pass. On the left is a sheer cliff, and on the right a steep wall. The two are facing each other, and it is impossible to turn or to back up. How do they solve their dilemma? One of them lies down on the trail and lets the other goat walk over him – both then are safe. This mental picture of the goat lying down is an accurate demonstration of the word ‘humble.’ It also gives us a vivid mind picture of our Lord and His great sacrifice.

Jesus met sin and sinful man on a mountain path with a sheer cliff on the left and a steep wall on the right. How could he save man? He did what any saviour would do. He lowered himself. *“Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death...”* (Phil.2:8). Jesus went to the ground and allowed sin and sinful man to walk over him, and the result? The result was breathtaking! Man was saved because Jesus took that lowly position. What happened to Jesus? God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name above all other names. When His name is announced, every knee shall bow, of those in heaven and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord (2:9-11).

Imagine for a moment, if you would, *another* scene. There are two Christians who meet each other on a narrow ledge just wide enough for one of them to pass. On the left is a sheer cliff, and on the right a steep wall. The two are facing each other, and it is impossible to turn or to back up. How do they solve their dilemma? They could do what most humans do. They could start butting each other until both plunge into the chasm. On the other hand, they could have the common sense of a billy goat, and the beautiful humble spirit of our Lord.

Today’s Verse: *“...I lay down my life that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, But I lay it down, and I have power to take it again.”* (John 10:17-18)

Today’s Challenge: Read John 3:16-17, Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:4-6, 1 John 3:16, 4:19

[Allan’s Psalms journal:](#)

Psalms .7.

- 1- “God search my heart to see if I have sinned if so you judge the wicked and protect the innocent.” God is a just Judge. (Heb 10:31) Every individual will face God in Judgement.
- 2- David prays for deliverance from his enemies, ver. 1, 2. Appeals to God for his innocence, ver. 3 - 5. Prays to him to judge his cause, ver. 6 - 9. Expresses his confidence in God, ver. 10 - 17. Shiggaion of David, which he sang unto the Lord, concerning the words of Cush the Benjamite..

[Allan](#)