



The Weekly Jog

Volume 2, Issue 26 Jog: to nudge, to give a reminder, *jog* the memory

25th June 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).

Sunday Is Friends Day



Worship – 10am: followed by a luncheon.

Just imagine if everyone extended an invitation to one or even maybe two.

“But sanctify the Lord God in your heart, and always be ready to give a defence to every one who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you.” (I Peter 3:15)



A Glad Heart

By Teresa Hampton

Have you looked around lately? We are busy, busy people and often anxious. We're navigating the traffic, keeping appointments, getting the necessary shopping done and a whole host of other daily activities that may cause tension and anxiety. I find it intriguing that the meaning of the word "anxious" is "to strangle." When I'm anxious or worried about something, whether trivial or important, there is a sense that I'm being strangled with my thoughts.

Scripture talks about the result of anxiousness. *"Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad"* (Proverbs 12:25). There is so much common sense truth to that proverb! If left unchecked, an anxiety ridden life will lead to depression. Depression then may involve self-doubt, irrational fears, and physiological changes. However, a good word makes the heart merry and glad.

We can choose to have good words in our minds, words that see ourselves and see others in a good light. This is also described as positive self-talk. It is a choice. Additionally, good words from others bring gladness to our hearts, and our good words bring happiness to other hearts. Words of kindness and compassion create a glad heart in our loved ones and those outside the home. An encouraging word, a compliment, and words of praise and admiration are welcome to any ear and will gladden any heart!

Today's Verse: *"Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*
(Philippians 4:6-7).

Allan's Psalm Journal:

Psalm 14

- 1- Companion Psalm is (53). It is quoted in Romans 3:10-12. Unbelievers are here called fools: widespread wickedness shows what fools people are. For as sure as there is a God, there will be a day of reckoning, a day of judgment for the wicked.
- 2- Living among the wicked are God's people, for whom Judgment Day will be a day of joy.