



# The Weekly Jog

Volume 2, Issue 43 Jog: to nudge, to give a reminder, *jog* the memory Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2008.

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

## Big Boy and Girl Church Ephesians 4:13-16 Edwin S. Jones

Maturity is, to say the least, a much needed attribute in each Christian.

Without maturity, we are doomed to fail at the one thing at which we must never fail—Christianity. Therefore, we must understand the church is designed to be driven by "big boys and girls." Maturity is not an option.

"Stop Acting like Children" -- Bill Cosby's Dad

- There are children and there are children (Matt. 18:1-4; I Cor. 3:1; 14:20)
- God has "grown up" expectations (Heb. 5:12-14; I Cor. 13:11)
- The expectations are reasonable, in keeping with the way God has made us (I Pet. 2:2)
- In maturity, there are individual responsibilities (Eph. 4:11-15) and there are church family expectations (Eph. 4:16)

Contrast of Characteristics

- Selfish/Selfless
- Self-indulgent/Sacrificial
- Unreliable/Trustworthy
- Demanding/Understanding
- Capricious/Dependable
- The Moment/Visionary
- Easily Distracted/Focused
- Me/Team
- Pleasure Centered/Values Centered
- Undisciplined/Disciplined
- Aggravating/Comforting
- Shallow/Insightful
- Unfulfilled/Fulfilled

The Privilege of Maturity

- Guilt will work for a while, but not well (I Sam. 24:16-18; 26:1-3)
- Fear will work for a while, but not well (Ex. 15:31; 17:1-3)
- Love, resulting from Grace, keeps on working, and with distinction (II Cor. 5:14-15; Jn. 14:15)
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This article was the prompt behind my sermon on Sunday. We will at times have to deal with immaturity in the Church but we must also recognise that we are to continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ.

Allan.

**(Hebrews 10:24-25)**

**"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."**

## Our Congregational Sunday School Programme.

***The new curriculum has been prepared and ready to go. First education meeting will be***

**Sunday afternoon on the 16th November, 3p.m. till 4 pm.**

**The new curriculum is very good and covers both the Old and New Testament over two years which is 8 quarters. **BUT:** we need teachers. Get excited in serving the Lord by teaching our children for they are the way forward for the future of the Church.**

# A Scarlet Thread

By Teresa Hampton

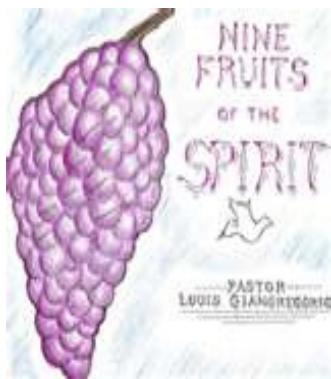
My grandmother (we called her Granny) used words to draw vivid pictures in our minds. She taught us about the scarlet thread of the Bible. She wasn't talking about an actual thread or red ribbon in the Bible. Rather, she helped us realize that when we read the Bible then and when we read it now we can see Jesus woven in it from start to finish.

Jesus was in the beginning as the creative, hands-on maker of heaven and earth (Genesis 1:26, John 1:1-3). He was in the Garden of Eden, in the promise that He would crush the head of the serpent (Genesis 3:15). He visited Abraham and Sarah, telling them that one year later they would have the son of promise (Genesis 18:10). Jesus was prophetically woven throughout the writings of the prophets (Isaiah 53). In the gospel accounts, He took the form of man, "*God with us.*" Jesus taught, healed, rebuked, and gave the ultimate, sinless sacrifice. Confirming His resurrection, He sent the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles (John 16:7, Acts 2). He revealed Himself to the servant and preacher Stephen when he was being stoned to death, and then again in a blinding light that shone on Saul (Acts 8:56, 9:1-5).

We continue to see Jesus in the letters to disciples, for example, as a groom anxiously awaiting the arrival of His bride, the church (Ephesians 5:25-27). And finally, in the last book we see Jesus, the Lamb of God, assuring the faithful of their great victory and home in heaven (Revelation 22:1-5).

Granny's vivid word pictures are still with me today, especially the scarlet thread. I've come to realize the colour red flows from Genesis to Revelation, from before creation to the end of time. Jesus and His blood are woven as a beautiful scarlet thread throughout the entire Bible, from beginning to end, from start to finish.

**Today's verse:** *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty"* (Revelation 1:8).



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.