



The Weekly Jog

Volume 2, Issue 46 Jog: to nudge, to give a reminder, *jog* the memory

19th Nov 2008

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

Side by Side

When Nehemiah returned to the city of Jerusalem around 445 BC, it had been more than 140 years since Nebuchadnezzar had destroyed the city and carried exiles to Babylon. When Nehemiah arrived, it had been at least 90 years since the first wave of captives had returned to Jerusalem following the decree of Cyrus. Yet, the walls of the city had not been rebuilt, leaving the city vulnerable. Nehemiah set out to do that which had been left undone. But, instead of doing it all on his own, he organized work for everyone to do. Nehemiah 2:18 says, “Then they set their hands to this good work.” Read Nehemiah chapter 3, and picture in your mind everyone working side-by-side on the walls:

“Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests and built the Sheep Gate...Next to...next to them...Also...And next to them...Next to them...Next to them...Next to then...next to them...Moreover...And next to them...Next to him...Also next to him...And next to them...Next to them...And next to him...And next to him...he and his daughters...After him...After him...Next to him...After him...And next to him...After him...After him...And after him...After him...After them...After him...After him...Moreover...After them...After them...After him...After him...After him...After him...”

What a beautiful picture! There was work to do, and everyone “dug in.” The high priest was there (3:1). The priests were there (3:1, 22, 28). There were “leaders” there (3:9, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19). There were children there (3:12). There were some (like the Tekoites) who repaired more than one section (3:5, 11, 27). They all worked, in spite of some “nobles [who] did not put their shoulders to the work of their Lord” (3:5).

Nehemiah summarizes this effort with these words: **“So we built the wall...for the people had a mind to work” (4:6).** One factor that led to the wall being finished in 52 days (6:15) was the **mind** of the people and the **hands** of the people being set to the work, laboring side-by-side. The second factor (and overriding factor) became a reality only when the people showed a determination to do the work—**“...this work was done by our God”** (6:16).

They set their minds and hands **together** to do the work of the Lord, and **the Lord blessed their efforts.**

Brethren, God will bless our efforts if we will “with one mind [strive side-by-side] together for the faith of the gospel,” (Phil. 1:27) Amen!

Teachers Meeting held this past Sunday:

Folks, yes, the teachers meeting this past Sunday was well attended with 19 in all giving there time and effort to be involved with the future planning of the Sunday school programme for the congregation. I could see the excitement and willingness among all who attended. You know that this means that when the new curriculum begins in January 09 that we now will be able to rotate our teachers, have great planned classes and lots of input. I am so excited for the future. Please continue to work and pray for what we are all doing. It is wonderful to see Ephesians 4:16 coming to life in our Church Family. Thank you; thank you thank you may the Lord be praised.

Glenn, Allan, will keep you all updated over the next few weeks as the programme is developed and ready to go.

Al

Reminders:

Friends Day is on the 7th December 2008. This will be the last one for the year so let's make it a great one. Invite a friend to worship and the luncheon.

Ladies, 15th December is the "ladies end of year function." Bring a gift and be ready to have fun and fellowship.

The new Curriculum for the Sunday school programme begins January: 2 Sunday of that month.

Camps: Remember the Palmerston North camp and Hamilton camp in January 2009, more info to follow soon.

Work list on the notice Board: Select a job and tick when finished.

Prayer List.

Sick:

Sister Ann, Gaye, Rod, Bob, Dave, Jason.

Travelling;

Jaracz, Tiffany.

Other:

Jaracz securing new Job contract-
The new Sunday school programme and the teachers- Tiffany as she begins her new work with the congregation here in New Plymouth.
The Western Samoan work and its unity and growth numerically and spiritually. For the faith and growth of the Congregation.



Allan's Psalm journal:

Psalm. 51.

- 1- A penitential psalm (see on Psalm 32), written in the aftermath of David's sin with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11-12). "Create in me a pure heart" (v. 10) is a prayer we all would do well to pray constantly. (V11) has an interesting point: God can take the Holy Spirit from you. NB (1 Sam 16:14, Jude 18-19.)

Psalm.52.

- 1- - David's trust in God is contrasted with the wicked boastfulness of his enemy Doeg (1 Samuel 21:7; 22:9). David is confident that he will be delivered.

Psalm.53.

- 1- This psalm is similar to Psalm 14. It is quoted in Romans 3:10-12. The meaning of the terms *mahalath* and *maskil* in the title is not known, although they are most likely musical or literary terms.

Allan.