

Slide 1



Steve Ready addressing men from the Wellington & Palmerston North Refresher weekend in Featherston where Brendon Malone was key speaker



The world and the church are going through great turmoil & challenges as we search for answers. Pope Benedict gave the quote which Brendon referred to/

Reflections on Brendan Malone's

presentation, Featherston, January 2019

Where we are

- ▶ 1. Loss of community
- ▶ 2. Loss of relationships
- ▶ 3. Loss of self identity
- ▶ 4. Loss of unifying vision. Vacuum of non belief
 - therefore believe anything (G.K. Chesterton)
- ▶ 5. Stuck in a politically false dichotomy

Liberal progressives v liberal conservatives (*Jordan Peterson*)

* Need for change & new ideas

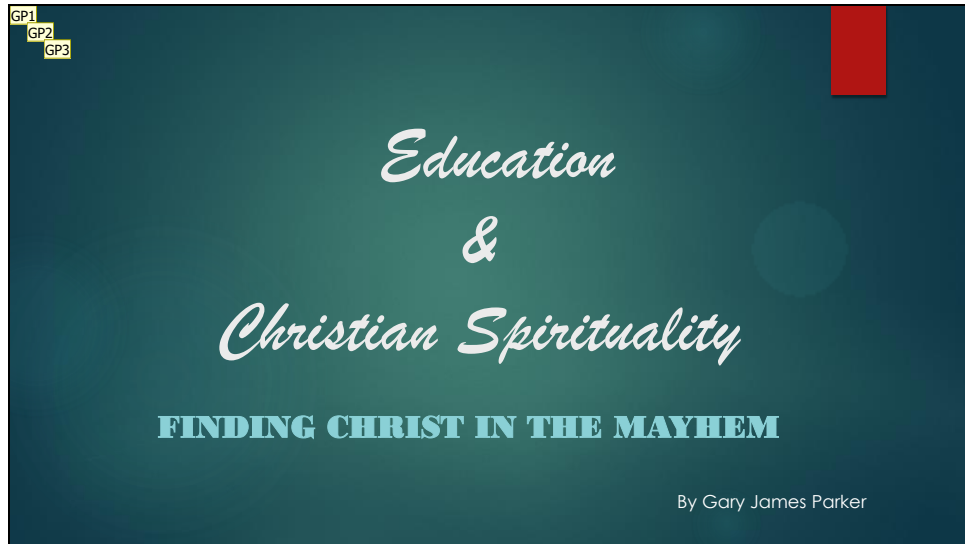
Motivation speaker, Brendan Malone gave two presentations at the weekend in Featherston. The first was on how the post modern ideologies have affected the world and humanity in ways that have made many of us adopt secular ideals. As a consequence these are separating us from a sense of community and developing relationships. Religion is less significant, but the outcome is one of therefore accepting anything and everything irrespective of consequences. People are often classified into political factions in terms of their views and own ideologies causing tribal dichotomies. Renowned clinical psychologist Jordon Peterson, warns this is a dangerous strategy as it prevents sharing and understanding to be developed between people, saying this lack of cohesion and mutual agreement brought about by a competitive influence can lead to the problems which created the wars of the twentieth century.

Order v chaos

- ▶ Jordan Peterson (Clinical psychologist)
- ▶ Ying & Yang
 - We need both. Old testament/New testament
- ▶ ORDER is necessary, but too much can lead to >
Complacency, inward thinking, power, corruption,
“wilful blindness”
- ▶ CHAOS is not always bad, as it can lead to >
Creative ideas, but is often difficult to assimilate,
takes time & requires education



Peterson says there is importance in accepting differences as this creates balance, harmony and progress for the betterment of all. He refers to order and chaos pointing out both have their good points as well as bad. Institutions which generate the same continued ethos can become stale, corrupt and wilfully blind. An injection of new ideas is necessary to enable it to grow and be relevant. How, where and when is the uncertainty that slows down any necessary change.



The purpose of this presentation is to look at ways in which the process of education can help inject new thoughts and ideas into the religious practices within the Catholic church, particularly regarding spirituality.

New ReligionCONSUMERISM

Graham Rossiter "Life To The Full: The changing landscape of contemporary spirituality. Implications for Catholic School's Religious Education"

Research findings by Graham Rossiter, doctor of theology in the Theological Catholic Institute in Sydney, can be found in his on line eBook "Life To The Full". In this he refers to the changes of spirituality in today's post modern society and the implications of this within Catholic religious education. The new religion he states to be "Consumerism".



Secularism has pushed aside religious practices and now dominates the majority of people's lives.



Churches are declining and are seen more as museum items rather than places of worship in many parts of the world.



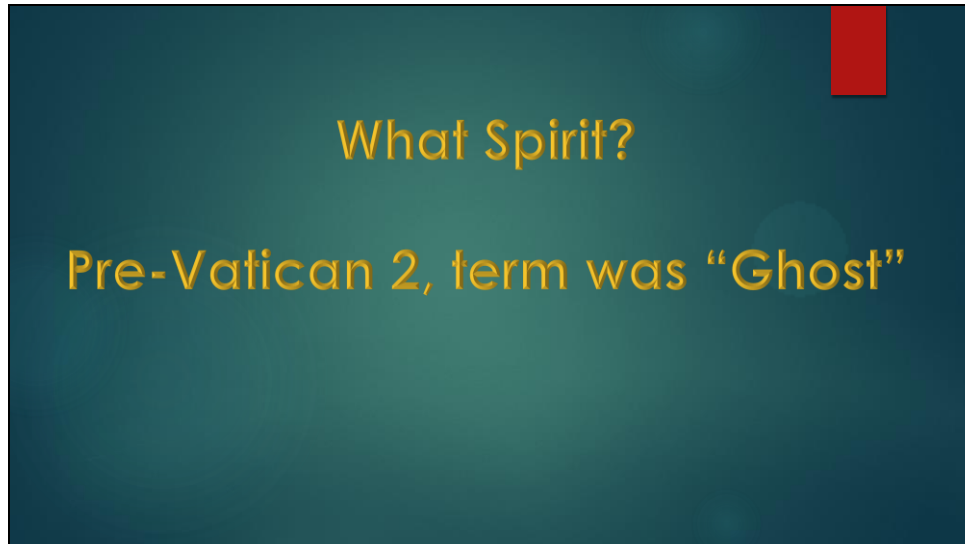
Statistics in New Zealand indicate a rapid decline in people indicating they practice a Christian religion. Numbers from 2018 statistics have yet to be completely verified.

Many say they are spiritual but not religious



72% believe in a higher power

A growing number of people indicate they are spiritual, but not religious. A large number believe in a higher deity but are not prepared to accept the dogmas and ideologies of established religions.



The problem becomes one of which spirit are they encountering and following in their lives. Since Vatican 2 the concept of Holy Spirit has been adopted as opposed to Holy Ghost. While the meanings are similar the perceptions are quite different. This is something the Catholic Church appears to be realising as the papacy encourages more to acknowledge and accept the Holy Spirit as the one to create change, guide and empower its followers.

**The attraction in building large cathedrals with community input
is no longer fashionable**



Changes in approach to church practices, according to Rossiter, have been caused essentially by changes in culture. The wonderful Cathedrals and the building of these, as they were in medieval times is no longer relevant. Rossiter says the human eye is easily distracted and there are now so many other eye catching distractions which cater to an often short term feel good factor.

Medieval culture no longer has relevance



Religious friezes depicting ancient cultures are no longer relevant to most, other than for historical purposes in reviewing a by-gone culture.


Rural areas however, may still retain a point of difference.



In Europe I believe it is fair to say the smaller rural communities practice their religion more than in the larger urban and metropolitan areas. I believe it is true in New Zealand and particularly when considering the backgrounds of many of our younger priests.

GP1

**Everything we need is however, just a push button away
and so eye catching**

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a smartphone. The screen displays a racing game with a red car on a track. The background is a dark teal gradient with a red vertical bar on the right side.

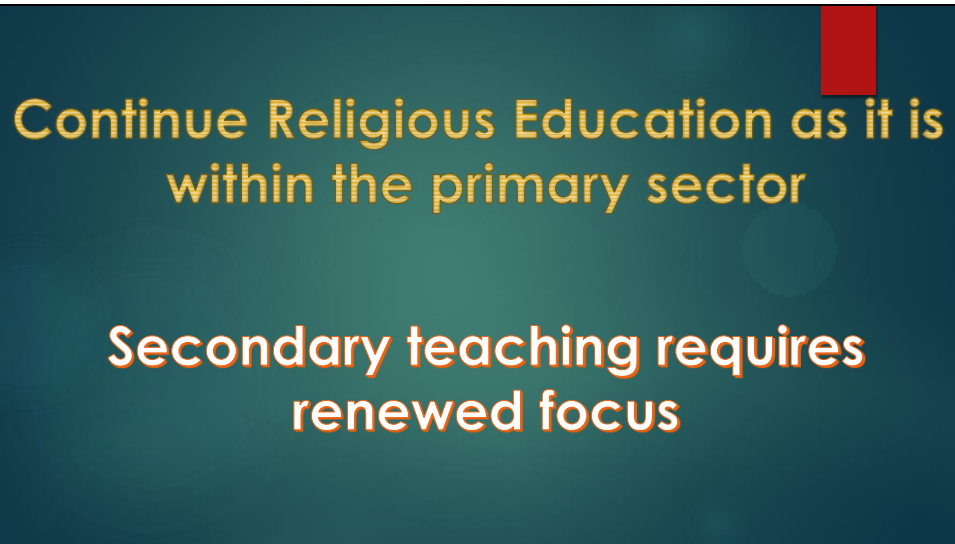
The media have become the new high priests

The distractions of modern life have been enhanced through the invention and introduction of portable phones, ipods, smart phones etc. All communications and knowledge is provided instantly to individuals visually by the push or slide of screens and buttons. This has made people more independent and in many cases less physically engaged with others.

In learning & education many books remain closed.

Television & online screens now have the greater educational influence





Rossiter recommends Religious Education in the primary school sector remains as it is, as children are less questioning, and absorb knowledge quite readily.

less instructive, theological & seminarian



The secondary school RE programmes he suggests need to become more relevant to the pedagogy and culture of teenagers as they seek purpose, direction and understanding of life in general. A process of clerical instructing is no longer relevant to adolescents. They see little relevance in it and are often bored by its content and delivery.

More open & questioning

Emphasis on values, relationships and moral decisions, study of other religions and key events in church history e.g. Crusades



Critically evaluate affects on, health, social justice, well being and environmental issues, immediate & long term

Adolscents prefer material which they can chew on, make use of and see its relevance. Moral values and issues have more relevance and allow them to develop potentially as healthy citizens able to adapt to change in ways that ideally benefit all. Many don't know how to respond to accusations regarding church history which others from outside might comment on. Apologetics doesn't cover actual historical facts which explain such events as reasons for the crusades, missionary influences, science and religion, the reformation, etc.



**The state school system also teaches
morals & values**

The State system however also teaches morals and values

Point of difference from the State system


A Gospel perspective


Particular emphasis should be given to

**Knowing the Spirit of God
Learning to be open to
and lead by the Holy Spirit**

The point of difference between the State and Catholic School system must be the source or foundations from which the values and morals arise. These have to be scripturally based. Knowledge, use and reference to scripture as a learning, guiding and lifestyle tool should be built into the Catholic school system, not only within RE classes but within the whole culture of the school. In other words it should not be seen as something separate or just another subject but something that is on going and applied all around them. The school is the only stand alone institute that can provide a truly religious experience for students.

The importance of the Holy Spirit, knowledge and application of the Fruits of the Spirit should be common knowledge and practiced. Being open to discernment and direction of the Holy Spirit will be enabling as well as challenging but will allow students to have a greater awareness of what God's Spirituality is for them in their every day lives, allowing them to be freer, goal centred individuals to themselves as well as for the sake of others.





"The Joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew. In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelisation marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come"

I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since "no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord"

Exerpts from Pope Francis' Evangelii Gaudium (Joy of the Gospel)

the GIFT

a life in the Spirit course

Presented by well-known international speakers; David Payne, Michelle Moran, Charles Whitehead and Jenny Baker. The six sessions cover:

- The Father's Loving Plan
- The Joy of the Gospel
- The Gift of the Spirit
- Unwrapping God's Gift
- Encountering God's Spirit
- Living in the Spirit

The teachings are relaxed, personal and informative, rooted in the Bible, the Catechism, Evangelii Gaudium and reflections on the Holy Spirit from Pope Francis. Sessions include testimonies from laity and clergy.

The importance of accepting the Holy Spirit into our lives has increased more so through the directional influences of Pope Francis. He strongly advocates Catholics invite the Holy Spirit into their lives by receiving the charismatic baptism of the Spirit. Courses such as the Gift of the Spirit are run in many parishes providing opportunities for parishioners to ask and receive the Holy Spirit into their lives.

**All who are baptised & confirmed have received
the Holy Spirit & are therefore charismatic**

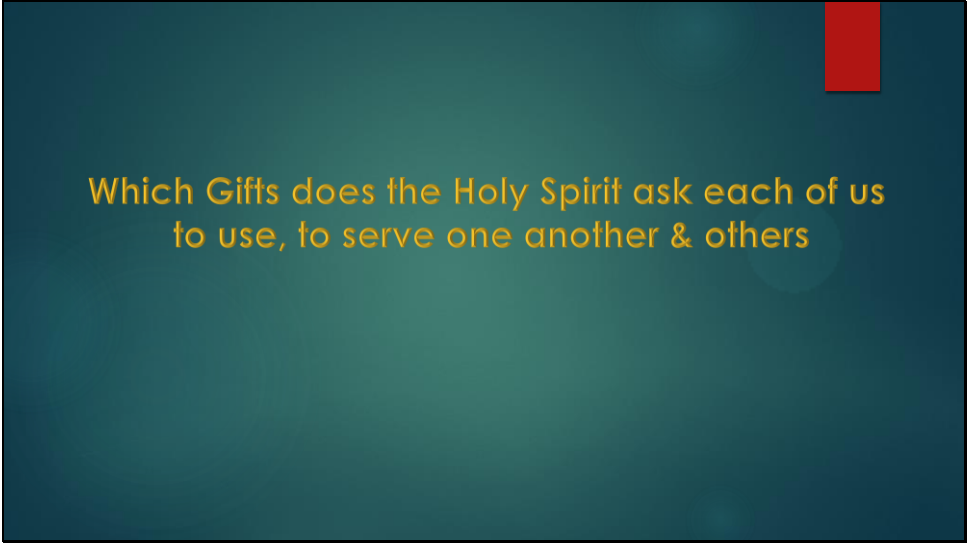
The
switch is
in place



But not always
turned on

Manifestations of the Holy Spirit vary

As Christians baptised by water and having received the presence of the Holy Spirit through baptism have the Holy Spirit within us and are therefore charismatic. What many have not yet done is to be released in the Spirit by accepting and asking for the gifts of the Spirit to be given to them. In other words the mechanism for an outpouring of the Spirit is in place it just has not yet been requested and therefore engaged. Once received the manifestations of the Holy Spirit,, through the various gifts, will be shown by the service or ministry each individual is quietly urged to follow. Feelings of unworthiness to undertake such action do not however come from the Holy Spirit and need therefore to be urgently prayed about.



Which Gifts does the Holy Spirit ask each of us
to use, to serve one another & others

I have been overwhelmed myself as a witness not only within my own life but from the lives of others. Having been shaken in the Spirit some 30 years ago I began writing songs of praise and worship for the men of Joshua and others until the Spirit took me on other roads of service. Last year I ran a Gift of the Spirit course for approximately 40 parishioners. This year I am suddenly aware of many of these turning to ministries within the church and community. These activities had never previously been part of their lives. Additionally I witness them conducting themselves with much fervour and joy.

As Classical Europe disintegrated in the 6th Century through corruption, disease, famine and warfare the Holy Spirit breathed new life into society through a monastic order



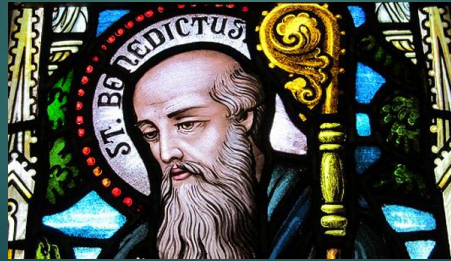
Is It Time for the Benedict Option?

COMMENTARY: In the face of moral and social disintegration, St. Benedict established core communities of intentional disciples.

Currently the Catholic church is criticized for a number of reasons factual and otherwise. It is not the first time and no doubt will not be the last. The need for an injection of new life and vigour into the church is therefore necessary. History shows how the Holy Spirit has engaged various individuals to take up the mantle of hope and restoration through such individuals as St Benedict, St Dominic, St Francis and St Thomas Aquinas, to name a few.

BENEDICTINES

Provided refuge, tended the poor and needy,
including the sick, widows, orphans and the elderly
They helped bring about Christian Europe



The Benedictine order brought restoration to an under siege Europe in the sixth century. Care for the poor, the sick, the orphans and widows became the service charism of the Benedictine order that spread itself in small communities throughout Europe. Strict disciplinary rules were established within the order that help provide strong spiritual direction and humble service.

What we can do

Know & pray into the fruits of the Spirit regularly

Read from scriptures

Receive the sacraments

Look out for others in our parish and surrounding community

Meet, greet, know & share with people

Identify places of greatest need & respond

Pray with and for one another & the community

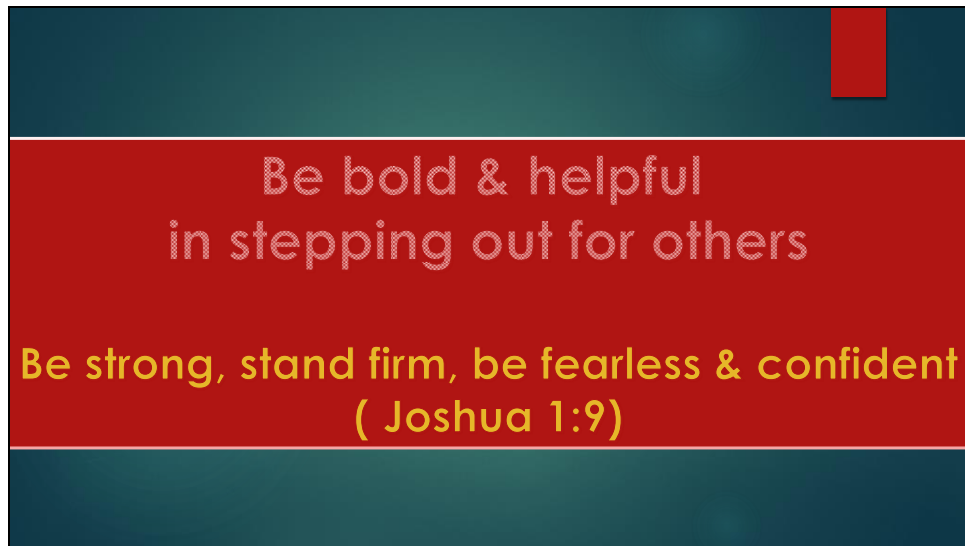
As Christians we are able to live fuller lives by committing ourselves not only by devotion to God through the prayers and sacraments of the church but by the way in which we reach out and treat community including people we do not already know. If we become aware of the fruits of the Spirit by regularly reflecting on these we begin to live lives which are more purposely filled with Spiritual fruits, rather than living these incidentally.

**WE NEED TO BE
COUNTERACTIVE IN A SOCIETY OF
INDIVIDUALITY & SELF INDULGENCE**

God is a community of GIVING
(Brendan Malone)

We find ourselves when we GIVE

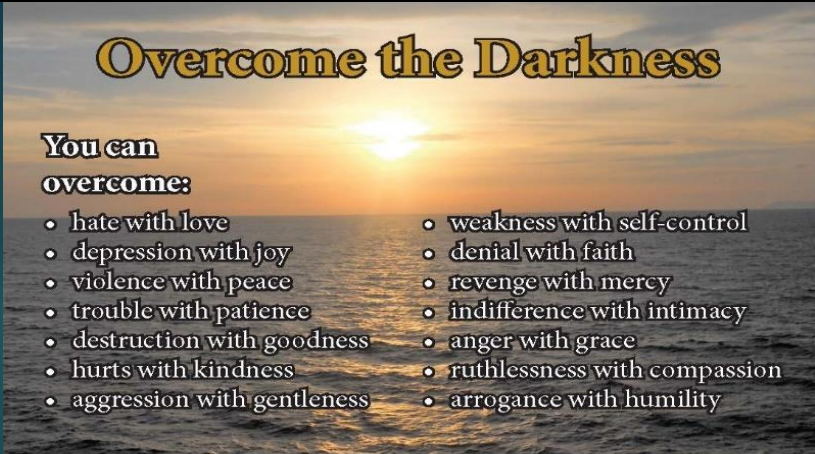
We are called to live in this world but not be of this world. Hence a world of self seeking and individualism is contrary to one which reaches into the hearts and lives of communities. Many individuals in today's world are lost and disassociated. If we can help them find their God given purposes and goals and turn away from things that take them from developing as healthy rounded individuals, then the will of God is being done on Earth. We therefore need to step out of our comfort zones. Be aware of the needs of others and in the words of Pope Francis be prepared to roll up our sleeves and get dirty.



Pray into the words by God given to Joshua. It is a Spiritual battle that rages around each of us. Invite His presence into our lives to empower us and break down the walls of darkness.

**Listen to one another
Pray immediately for their needs**

- *Visit the sick & lonely**
- *Clothe the poor & homeless (St Vincent de Paul)**
- *Help with food parcels & food to the homeless and those caught in emergency situations.**
- *Prison chaplaincy**
- *Hospital chaplaincy**
- *Assist in finding shelter for the homeless**
- *Visit victims of crime & offer support (Te Hahi)**


A background image of a sunset over the ocean, with the sun low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the water and sky. The slide has a dark teal border on the left and right sides.

Overcome the Darkness

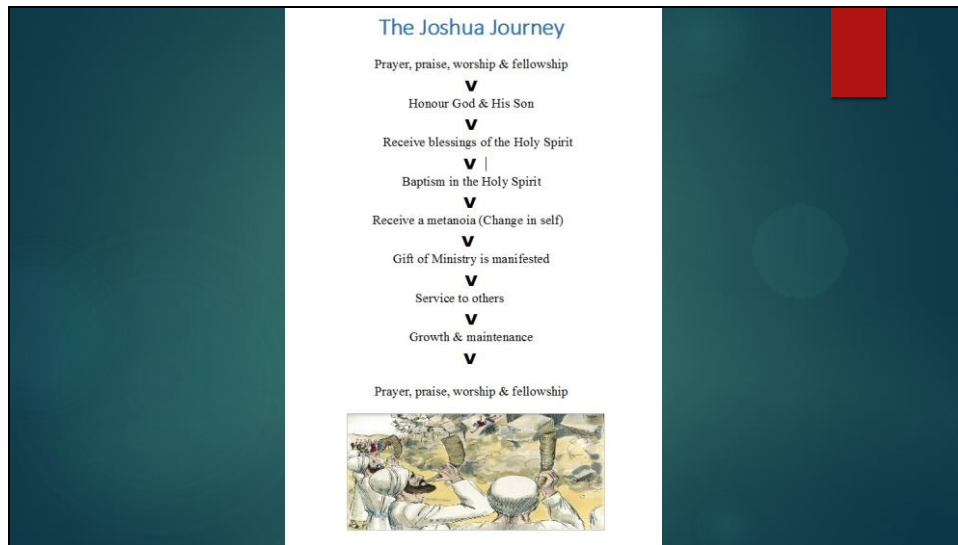
You can overcome:

- hate with love
- depression with joy
- violence with peace
- trouble with patience
- destruction with goodness
- hurts with kindness
- aggression with gentleness
- weakness with self-control
- denial with faith
- revenge with mercy
- indifference with intimacy
- anger with grace
- ruthlessness with compassion
- arrogance with humility

Become light in the darkness
Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship



FLOOD
Your home
Your parish
Your community
The nation
With Fruits of the Spirit



The flow diagram showing the direction and path each Joshua man should walk is really circular. With great outpouring there is also a need for great refilling. Hence the need for the men of Joshua to come together regularly for spiritual, physical, mental, social and emotional refilling. The more the outpouring, the more the refilling that is required.



In a secular world dominated by consumerism we find ourselves living as the Israelites did when taken captive. We must find ways to sing and show ways Lord of the Lord in a land that turns its back on God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. By example we maintain at least an acceptance by God almighty as well as by one another and hopefully, if not immediately, by the unchurched.

Become brothers to one another and others



One of these brothers can run, jump, hop, skip and walk. The other can only crawl. Brotherly love shares to enable the one who is without the joy of the journey.

