



Owen Kowalewski
National Leader

Season's Greetings.

On behalf of the Joshua National Leadership Team, I would like to thank you for all the great work you have done during 2017 as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ.

With committed and dedicated people like yourselves, evangelising in your homes, workplaces and communities many people have come to hear the Word of God and respond to it. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by those who have come to know the Lord and now follow him.

When I reflect on the Christmas story, I can't help thinking about evolution. For those with scientific inclinations, you will be aware that people and cultures evolve over time and are influenced by many factors at each generational level.

As Christians we are evolving too, and when we reflect on the 2000 years of Christianity and look into our spiritual genetics we discover that some of our spiritual DNA comes from the Gospels and apostles. Some also comes from our parents, our family, church liturgies and rituals, personal prayer and reflection, our education and our local community.

These shape us into who we are, what we believe, and what we do. Saints, martyrs, great leaders, artists and musicians also influence our understanding of Christianity, and especially the birth of Jesus.

However, current popular ideologies like individual



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

materialistic ambition, secular humanism and atheism also add to the mix, as do major world events. This Christmas we should be looking deeply into our spiritual DNA and examining what beliefs and practices are essential and important to our faith.

That's what we need to pass on to our children, grandchildren and the future generations. Today we are responsible for making the birth of Jesus, the incarnation, the epiphany a living and dynamic reality in our lives, by our actions and example.

What we do with our time and money will influence what other people do with theirs. So let us take the lead and pass on the good stuff about Christmas and not get involved in the other stuff. Let's take Christian evolution to a whole new level.

To our chaplain Bishop Denis, the NLT members, the branch leaders and their committees and all those involved in the Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship, I wish you a very holy Christmas and look forward to working with you again in the New Year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the bishops and priests, our sisters in Dove Fellowship and our friends in CCR for their support and encouragement this year. I look forward to working more closely with you all in the future.

Wishing you all a very happy and holy Christmas.



28-30 September 2018

Next year Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship and menALIVE, an Australian-based Catholic men's ministry, will co-host a first-ever national gathering for Catholic men here in New Zealand. Known as MAX18 NZ, this live-in weekend event is modelled on the very successful MAX weekends that have been held in Brisbane for a number of years. They draw together Catholic men from all over Australia and even some of us Kiwis.

The venue for MAX18 NZ will be Kings College in Otahuhu, Auckland.

A Thanksgiving Reminder

Vince D'Acchioli
<http://otm.co/>



I am persuaded that one of the very special and pleasing things our Lord experiences happens when we thank Him in the midst of our greatest struggles.

It is a powerful demonstration of taking our focus off of our own pain and letting Him know how much we love Him. It is not always easy, however. The flesh is very powerful and the enemy of our soul is always right there telling us what a victim we are and how God really isn't around to help.

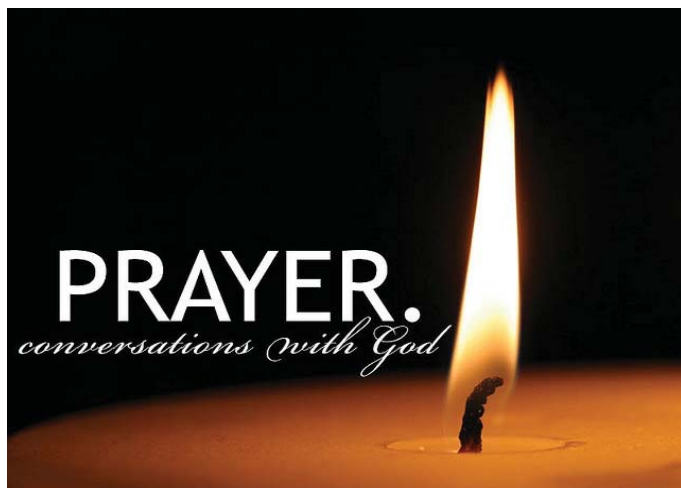
Perhaps the most powerful and often mentioned ideas in the Bible have to do with this attitude of thankfulness. Everything from numerous thank offerings to expressions of thanks as the people went out praising at the head of the army and gained the benefit of victory.

The Bible says that our Lord literally inhabits the praises of His people. I believe He is never closer than when we seek Him in a spirit of thanksgiving.

May I suggest what could be a powerful takeaway for you from this **TargetPoint**? Sit down and write out your list of things you are thankful for.

Then find a quiet spot and bring them before the Lord in a posture of thanksgiving. Tell Him how much you love Him for all the positive stuff.

I promise you it is the best medicine for our tendency to whine. It will also give you a more encouraging perspective and engender hope into your circumstance like nothing else you do.



It was one of those unforgettable moments in early 2010. I was driving to the hospital on my way to visit Cindy (now there for over three months mostly in a coma). Although I had been processing the whole idea of believing and expecting, I never-the-less went into a period of intense whining at the thought of losing my wife.

I am a good whiner — some might say even a professional. It was during a particularly dark time in this lengthy ordeal with my beautiful wife's life-threatening illness. In the midst of my complaining He spoke. It was a tender voice that I knew immediately was my precious Lord. He said, 'Vince do you have anything in your life for which you are thankful?'

Talk about a change of thought process and direction. I knew this was from our wonderful Saviour — the very Person who holds all of our circumstances in the palm of His hand. I immediately went into a chorus of things I was thankful for. Here is a partial list as best as I can remember:

I thank you Lord for:

- The special relationship Cindy and I along with our extended family have with each other and with you
- For two of the best daughters any dad could ever have
- Son-in-laws that love you and extend that love to our daughters and five very special grandchildren
- How you are watching over us and extending a supernatural sense of peace through this process
- The myriad of friends who have, are, and will continue praying for Cindy through this difficulty
- The unusual sacrificial giving we have experienced and that our future in this area is truly in your hands
- The special future you have already planned for us
- Your incredible outpouring through the ministry you have given Cindy and me and the tens of thousands of lives that have been impacted
- Who you are — the GREAT I AM

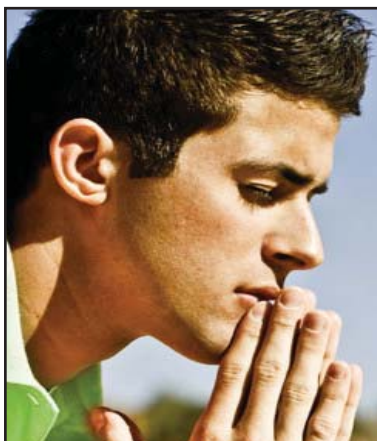
Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship have people who consider it a privilege to pray for others

Email (Jim Gribble) jimp.gribble@gmail.com

CC (copy to Peter Jackson) peter-ann@slingshot.co.nz (in case Jim is unavailable)

Many healings (and verifiable miracles) continue to occur as we pray. Please feedback answers to prayer, as testimony to Jesus' healing helps to encourage others to believe and to pray with expectation.

If you are not yet on the list of men who receive requests, or your email address has changed please advise Jim



Worship, be
happy and have
safe celebrations
this Christmas
holiday period

From the NLT



Bishop Denis Browne
National Chaplain



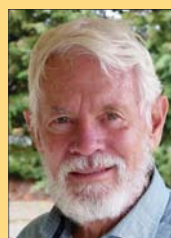
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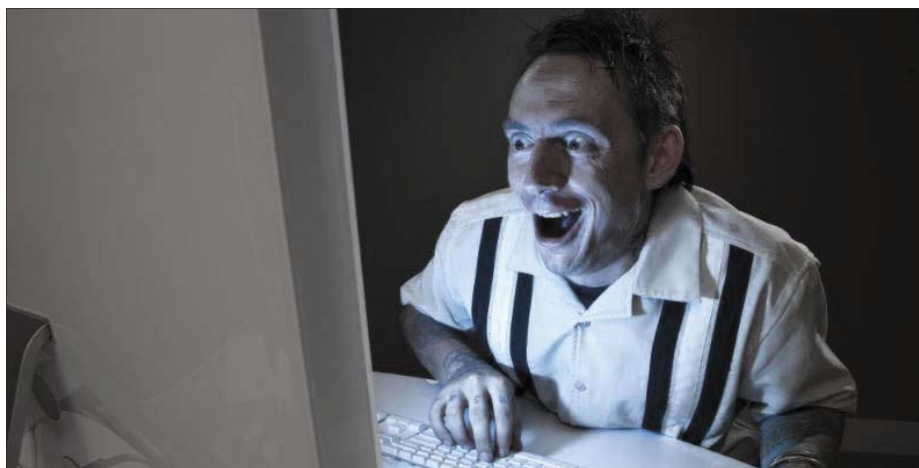
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John Doyel
180recovery

The Fix that Fixes Nothing



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It seems to me that in today's American Church culture being lukewarm is the norm. Gone are the days when your average believer takes his spiritual growth seriously. Life in the good old USA is nice, and we are comfortable. We are free to build our careers, raise our families and binge on Netflix.

However, lurking deep within is this idea that we are not growing into godlier and Christ-like people. We are not going deeper with God. He has become a sideshow to whom we pay homage on Sunday but feel free to spend our time and abilities to pursue hobbies instead of holiness. We might be amassing a good retirement and advancing in our work, all the while remaining spiritual infants instead of becoming strong godly men.

As I have battled now for 12 years in the trenches of helping men caught in sexual brokenness I see all too often the long-term effects of having a shallow spirituality and an immature faith.

It is no wonder that baby Christians are easily drawn into sin and remain mesmerised by the glint and glitter of our fallen world. Eventually, one of these sinful behaviors becomes an addiction, and we find ourselves entangled to the point of not being able to be free. And our sin gets exposed.

Then people wag their heads saying they thought we were such a good man and had the perfect marriage. However, now the mask is gone, and instead of finding a man working daily on deepening his relationship with Christ and experiencing the transforming power of the Spirit, there is a man who has done things nobody would have ever imagined. A man who has put his marriage, family, and even his career in jeopardy and is now seen to have been a fool.

Sure, there are the names plastered all over the front pages of the newspapers and broadcasts.

Names like Cosby, Weiner, Clinton, and Weinstein. However, there are hundreds and even thousands of men whose name you will never know.

They fill the pews of our churches wearing their suits and masks, pretending to be good yet all the while feeling the shame and guilt. Afraid to tell the truth. Committed to their isolation illness. Dying a little more each day and numbing the pain with another hour of looking at online porn.

The fix that fixes nothing.

It is the momentary thrill that can result in a massive loss. Then after losing the job, going through the divorce, having wounded your wife and children, you sit in a cheap motel wondering where it all went wrong. Then you wonder if the only answer to your pain might be to end your life.

I want you to know something. I have been there. I know the pain of sinful secrets exposed to the people I have loved the most. I have wounded those I am supposed to love and cherish. But I was too selfish. I cut corners. I nibbled on pleasures outside the lines and thought I could handle it. I was wrong.

I want you to know something else. I repented. I did a 180. I confessed my sins and in my brokenness, was ready to accept whatever consequences God would bring my way. There were 3 years of living in the desert and destruction caused by my sin.

However, one day at a time I did the work of repentance. I gave

myself and everything I am and everything I have to the Lord. And He began to rebuild my life, my marriage, my relationships with all 4 of my children.

I hope that gives you hope.

If you are still trying to manage your recovery, then you need to surrender to the Spirit and let Him do the work. Dedicate yourself afresh every day to begin to live the life of a true follower of Jesus.

Be filled with and walk in the Spirit. Daily put on the full armour of God. If you are not doing that, then you are sabotaging your own recovery.

I hope you too will repent.

How can I get on the list and off the lust?

John sends out daily emails for free. Simply send John your name and email address to be added to the list. [email doyel@me.com](mailto:doyel@me.com)

The ministry, 180recovery, occasionally asks for donations and John is putting all of his books onto Amazon where kindle versions are very affordable.

'We are a non-profit organisation and I am living off some of the money that is raised by donations and sales of our books and video series.'

FaceBook

www.facebook.com/180recovery

Check out the [website](https://www.180recovery.com)

www.180recovery.com

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MAX18NZ

A NATIONAL CATHOLIC EVENT FOR MEN

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UNLESS



28-30 Sept '18

Kings College
Otahuhu, Auckland

Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire

Psalm 19:5: A false witness will not go unpunished, and a liar will not escape.

When was the last time you told a lie? Now, before you answer that, let me be clear what I mean by that. I'm not just talking about a bald-faced lie. Included in that is a half-truth, or an omission designed to deceive.

So, let me ask you again, when was the last time you told a lie? And what advantage did you seek to gain through its telling? Oh, and what did that lie cost the other person? Because inevitably, someone pays for the unfair advantage that we gained.

We tend to rationalise our "little lies". They didn't hurt anyone. No harm done. But, let's just get all that into perspective:

A false witness will not go unpunished, and a liar will not escape. (Psalm 19:5)

Hmm. That's a tad uncomfortable, but it's the truth. It's so tempting sometimes to tell a lie isn't it? That's why the truth is so important. Because knowing the truth, according to Jesus, is what ends up setting you free.

After all, do you like being lied to? Of course not! The moment we put that shoe on the other foot, lying becomes inexcusable.



Berni Dymet

Founder and director of christianityworks.com produces a daily email, called *Fresh 4U Today*, available free to your inbox when you subscribe at www.christianityworks.com

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In fact, do you want to know how to tell when someone's lying to you? Here are the three sure signs:

The first is when the person brushes the tip of their nose with their hand, while they're speaking to you. True, because lying rapidly sends your blood pressure up and that tingles the tip of your nose, which causes the liar to involuntarily brush the tip of their nose with their hand. So the next time you see it, take note. The person speaking is probably lying to you.

The second is when they cover their mouth as they speak. It stands out like a sore thumb. They're speaking to you and all of a sudden, one hand or the other passes in front of their mouth.

And the third is when they quickly look downwards and to their left whilst speaking.

When you see one of those signs, the chances are you're being lied to. When you see two at the same time, you definitely have a liar before you.

But let's come back to you. Even though other people may not know it, God always knows when you're lying. It can be a difficult habit to break. But ultimately, even though the purpose of a lie is to gain an advantage, that advantage is going to be empty, because God is never, ever going to bless it.

Quite to the contrary.

A false witness will not go unpunished, and a liar will not escape. (Psalm 19:5)

You know how we say **two** things in life are certain - Death and Taxes?

Well it occurred to me that there are **three** things certain in Life - Death, Taxes, and the Love of God!
- Anon-e-Mouse



Who does all the praying for the prayer requests?

Joshua has a group of men who talk to God in prayer, seeking His will.

How can I become involved in praying for others?

Simply ask God to reveal His grace through hearing the prayer request.

Am I really 'qualified' to do this?

Everyone who talks with God is 'qualified'. 'Ask and you will receive.'

Who do I contact to become part of the team?

Email Jim Gribble - jimp.gribble@gmail.com

Peter Jackson - peter-ann@slingshot.co.nz

Unbound & Transforming Culture

By Neal Lozano

Recently I listened to a podcast by Father James Mallon, the author of *Divine Renovation*. One of the many insights he shared was about the necessity to transform the culture of a parish if it was going to move from a maintenance parish to an evangelising, gospel-spreading parish. Two points that struck me were:

1. This change takes time.
2. Transformation of culture begins with the transformation of individuals, and that happens through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In his parish there are many opportunities for this individual transformation: during the Holy Spirit weekend of the Alpha course, times throughout the year when parish members pray for the Holy Spirit to come, or occasions when they pray for one another, inviting that transforming power.

As a growing percentage of the people in the parish encounter the person of Jesus Christ and surrender to the work of the Holy Spirit, culture begins to be transformed; it is then that the church can fulfill its commission to make disciples, by impacting the surrounding society.

Kingdom thinking is required to transform culture

Jesus gave us many parables about how the kingdom of God advances, including the following:

'The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' (Matthew 13:31-32)

Jesus described how God's kingdom starts small but grows exponentially and results in a transformed culture. The small victories of God within the hearts of seemingly insignificant people become a source of protection, support, and strength for others as the influence of God's reign spreads.

The man who sowed the mustard seed saw in the seed the power to transform the ecosystem of his field. Like this man, we need to believe in the potential and power of God's kingdom to grow over time and to overcome the power of darkness in our world.

The kingdom is advancing into the darkness of people's lives and the darkness of this world, and we participate in the advance. This is at the very heart what it means to be church.

Jesus said:

'And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.' (Matthew 16:18)

Too often we find ourselves just holding on to what we have rather than looking to advance. We focus on the kingdom of darkness instead of the power of God's kingdom.

Kingdom thinking means we are confident that we can and will advance against the enemy's strongholds.



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That is what Jesus did and that is what He is doing today by His Spirit.

Jesus said we are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). We are the light because Jesus dwells in us. Light always expels darkness. Darkness never expels light. People of light who refuse to be afraid of the Darkness are the ones who will transform culture.

Unbound ministry is a critical part of the transformation of individuals that results in a transformed culture. For some, Unbound ministry provides that initial breakthrough into a personal relationship with the Lord.

For others, Unbound ministry brings a deep breakthrough that equips them with the courage and understanding of how to help others, and leads to many more personal encounters with the Lord. As more and more people experience deep freedom, the culture of a church and community will begin to change.

Father Tim leads a mission parish in Mexico. He recently was immersed in Unbound during an Unbound Priests Retreat. He sent me this email shortly after I listened to Father Mallon's podcast. As you read it, consider the potential for Unbound ministry to transform the culture of this parish:

'The Lord is indeed working in loving power. I find myself helping people to pray the Five Keys of Unbound ten to twenty times per week in my different encounters with folks in the parish and in our mission...Often I am hearing confessions with one other priest and the line is twenty-five to forty people waiting their turn. Many can be referred to reading the book and encouraged to follow-up if they desire. But in our Mexican border town, some wounds and battles cannot be left untreated. A brief encounter with the Living God of love will invite them to follow Jesus and have recourse to Him in the future. When touched by the Father's mercy and love they will be drawn back to Him, rather than to substance abuse, tarot readers or curanderos.'

'Let me give you one example of such an encounter. A couple had a sudden turn of events in their life when a credible threat to their twenty-year-old son presented itself.'

Continued on page 8

'The son's friends confirmed that a local gang was targeting him and his life was in immediate danger. The three of them fled the city and secured a place of refuge for the son. After things had settled down, the couple returned to our city and approached me with their plans for how to proceed.

'I opened with a prayer and then we three prayed in the Spirit asking for guidance. After about a minute the wife began to hyperventilate and seemed agitated in her spirit. I asked if she was experiencing something positive or negative and she really did not reply, but rather, started to panic.

'I directed her to look at me and stay engaged and then asked if she needed to forgive anyone in this whole episode. She nodded her head "yes."

'I modeled for her, "In your name Jesus, I forgive...", leaving off with a fill-in-the-blank pause in my voice. She mentioned a name and so I asked her to repeat the whole phrase filling in the person's name, "In your name Jesus I forgive..."

'There were several people whom she felt the need to forgive - not merely the perpetrators - but friends whose responses had been self-serving, others who had exacerbated the whole problem.

'Just in the confines of the incident, she also repented for some of her own responses. In short, we covered all of the Five Keys in a matter of ten minutes.

'Through the Father's Blessing, she received a deep and noticeable peace and also a sense of confirmation from the Spirit for the direction they had planned as a response.

'Interestingly, the husband had asked me to pray with him several months before this new episode. He identified some areas of his life in which he could not find freedom after years of striving and repentance through the Sacrament of Confession. I helped him pray through the Five Keys and he experienced very tangible and lasting freedom in his life, which continues to this day.

'When we abruptly broke into praying the Five Keys with his wife, he was familiar with the direction and efficacy of where I started to lead. So, he was

unshaken by his wife's panic and knew how to pray and intercede with calm assurance. The Lord is so good and so faithful.'

The kingdom advances like a mustard seed grows

God has taken the initiative. Father Tim is proclaiming the kingdom and serving as an instrument of grace. The people are responding to the gospel in their circumstances and allowing His power to transform them.

The culture of this parish will change when those who have been set free testify about the power of Jesus. The language of the Five Keys provides a simple way to help others surrender to God's mercy.

If couples like this one are empowered to help others with the simplicity and power of the Gospel, there will come a tipping point when entire neighbourhoods will be aware that there is healing and freedom in the church.

It takes time to transform culture. However, there is great rejoicing in heaven over every person who is set free, comes home to God, repents, or forgives. The kingdom advances one heart at a time, and with each breakthrough, your church is one step closer to transformation.

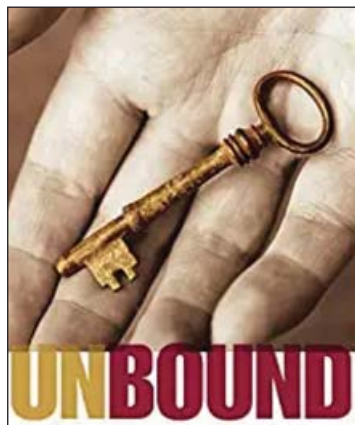
Do you believe in the power of God's kingdom advancing through your life? Will you serve so that the kingdom will advance in the hearts of others?

Ask God for a vision of His kingdom transforming the world around you, and pay attention to the small movements of His kingdom in the hearts of others.

www.heartofthefather.com

*For those new to Unbound the Five Keys are: Repentance and Faith, Forgiveness, Renunciation, Authority, and the Fathers Blessing.

**The new workbooks for the Freedom, Basic and Advanced study programs will be great tool to advance this kingdom mentality by offering, in an ongoing way, the opportunity to receive His freedom and a means to develop and sustain leaders through Basic and Advanced Training.



A Practical Guide to Deliverance

Neal Lozano

As a teacher on deliverance, Neal Lozano knows that many believers struggle with the same sin areas time after time. Yet victory can be as simple as tapping into the potent power of the gospel. By focusing on Jesus and his work, rather than on the intimidating aspects of evil spirits, readers can reset their mindset about their spiritual struggles. In Unbound, Lozano shows readers how

to do just this. He also shows them how to find and close any doors they may have opened to evil influence--and, consequently, Satan's underhanded strategies. Balanced and full of hope, Unbound is a practical, thorough, and easy-to-follow guide to deliverance and freedom. It also includes practical instruction on praying for others to be set free.

Robert - robertsaunders5@gmail.com

\$20

includes delivery in New Zealand!

Waikato BOP Joshua gatherings at Matamata



Mike Conroy
Hamilton

After Emmanuel Nair, long time Joshua man from Papamoa made an approach earlier this year to Joshua National Chaplain, Bishop Denis Browne. Would he consider hosting a monthly gathering of Joshua men at Holy Angels Parish in Matamata? Bishop Denis has been living in the presbytery there since retiring as Bishop of Hamilton.

This was seen as an ideal central venue to hopefully draw men from these three areas for the monthly meetings. Matamata is pretty much the same distance from Hamilton, Tauranga and Rotorua.

Bishop Denis readily agreed to this, suggesting that a Friday evening meeting, commencing with the regular 5pm parish Mass for those who could make it.



After Mass there could be an informal Joshua meeting with a time of praise and worship, perhaps a brief teaching or testimony. This would be followed by a time of fellowship over a shared fish and chip meal.

The first meeting was held on 16 June with about 12 men present. Everyone present felt this was reasonably successful, although some felt the 5pm Mass would be difficult for guys who were working

Continued on page 10

*The
New Day
That
Dawned*

*Catholic
Charismatic Renewal
New Zealand:
Our Story*



History of Catholic Charismatic Renewal

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Available from ccrnz.org
or email

Margaret Paton - margaretpaton@xtra.co.nz

Continued from page 9

and unable to get off work early.

It was decided to run with the proposed format for a while and see how it panned out.

There has been several more of these meetings since, with the numbers growing modestly.

The most recent gathering was on Friday 17 November where music was led by Gary Parker, from Rotorua, and myself. Bishop Denis then led a reflection on the scriptures for the following Sunday before we broke and enjoyed our fish and chips over a glass or two of wine, kindly provided by Bishop Denis.

What's Happening?

Changes are part of growthful experiences

For a couple of reasons there was a tinge of sadness at this gathering.

First, the absence was keenly felt of Tauranga man, Tony Noble. He had started coming to these gatherings earlier in the year. Sadly Tony passed away suddenly at the age of only 59 around the time of the October gathering.

Second, Bishop Denis has been lured up to Auckland

Diocese to live and to provide some assistance to Bishop Pat Dunn, so this was the last meeting in Matamata with the support of his hospitality before he relocates.

As for future meetings, we will see what the New Year brings. It is fair to say that there is a groundswell of support to continue so watch this space.

On behalf of all of us who have participated in these Matamata gatherings, I would like to express our grateful thanks to Bishop Denis for hosting and encouraging us.

We wish you well for your move to Auckland. Our loss is their gain for sure, but that's how it goes sometimes.

God bless.



m&m's

for my TEACHER

To my special teacher,

Thank you very much for teaching me. I hope you like my M&Ms. They are sweet like you. Have a very Merry Christmas!

Green is for helping us grow a little smarter each day.

Blue is for teaching us about Heaven and finding our way.

Orange shows your enthusiasm for creativity and play.

Yellow is for teaching God's grace when we lose our way.

Red is for teaching us why Jesus died and how to pray.

Brown is for teaching us humility and what not to say.

Wifey Wednesday: Thoughts on #MeToo



Sheila Wray Gregoire
Inspirational Speaker,
Marriage Author and Blogger

Email
sheila@sheilawraygregoire.com

Website
<http://tolovehonorandvacuum.com>

I can't use #metoo

I have never been sexually harrassed at work. I have never been sexually assaulted. I was groped on public transportation several times while in Tunisia, and I have been flashed, but really nothing compared to what so many women have been sharing.

And so, after commenting on Harvey Weinstein I've been silent for a while because I don't want to take away from their stories, and I think others have more standing to write on this (I really love Mary DeMuth's take, for instance).

But there is one aspect that I'd like to talk about today for Wifey Wednesday, and that's how men and women can see 'flirting' and this crisis very differently.

Let me tell you a story.

When my girls were 13 and 15, we were taking a walk around our neighbourhood one day when a van full of guys pulled up just behind us and started whistling. I whipped around with rather a snarly mother bear face, and when they saw my face and realised how old I was (I guess other parts of my anatomy from behind didn't look 40) they freaked and took off.

I was told afterwards that I should have been flattered that guys mistook me for a teenager but that's not the way I felt at the time. I felt seriously offended and scared on behalf of my girls (a van full of teenage boys pulls up and opens the side door? Really?).

I tried to explain to a guy recently that most women don't find whistling at them in public to be a compliment. Instead we tend to find it threatening.

Why? Because when you whistle, you're saying, 'I notice what you look like.' You're reducing us merely to objects that you can admire. And you're not afraid to let us know that. And if you simply think of us as objects, then what else may you do to us?

It may not be as threatening when we're in groups, but when we're alone? Definitely scary. Definitely degrading. Definitely intimidating. He just didn't believe me.

I wrote a while back in a post trying to explain to men the emotional toll it takes on women to always have a rape prevention strategy at the forefront of our minds. When we walk in parking garages, we're taught to have our phones on, ready to speed dial 111. We scan for multiple exits.

When I was a teenager going home at night in downtown Toronto, I knew to choose the subway car with the driver in it, to sit under the camera on the platform, to walk on the side of the street where the corner stores were open, so I could duck in if I had to.

We are constantly vigilant.

And you know what?

It gets tiring.

It gets tiring always watching movies where women are half-naked, because that's what sells. It gets tiring always having to be on the alert in case something bad happens.

It gets tiring as a teenager listening to stories of your friends who have been sexually abused when there's nothing you can do to help them, and sitting in a Bible study on healing as an adult and listening to everyone's stories of middle aged men who used to fondle them when they were kids and uncles who forced them to perform oral sex and a boyfriend who date raped them.

It gets tiring

It gets tiring hearing in church that if you serve on a praise team you shouldn't wear a skirt in case men lust after your legs while they're supposed to be worshipping. It gets tiring hearing that men can't control themselves on a beach, and so women are responsible for their thoughts.

It gets tiring if you're out in a public place, and a guy grabs your butt, thinking it's funny. It gets tiring when older men make comments about how good you're looking, when you weren't dressing to try to attract attention to anything at all.

And then it gets even more tiring if we are at work, just trying to do a good job, and sexual harrassment starts.

A good friend of mine is currently

being sexually harrassed at her job, and it's making her miserable and stressed. It's causing her husband stress (and now she's afraid he may end up in jail for punching the guy out!). It's causing conflict with her boss. ***She's the one bearing all the pain when her co-worker is the one who is causing it.*** It is all wrong.

And it is very, very tiring.

That's why, I think, the Harvey Weinstein scandal did not stay the Harvey Weinstein scandal, and so many others are falling as well. Women are simply tired. And so there was this groundswell saying, 'enough is enough!' (Reminds me of this post I wrote railing against the 'boys will be boys' mentality).

What I've been noticing on social media, though, is that there's beginning to be a divide in the reaction to the scandal.

Women feel angry, tired, and invigorated all at the same time, while many men (not all, but many) seem to think it's gone too far. *Are men not allowed to be men anymore? Are they supposed to be emasculated?*

I just want to take a minute and say something to both men and women.

The #MeToo Movement is so needed. But how do we make sure that it becomes healing for the genders, rather than polarising?

Men, your relationships with women would be greatly enhanced if you listened and understood that sexualising women only puts distance between you.

(What I am about to say does not apply to all men—certainly not my husband or sons-in-law, and certainly not most of the male commenters on this blog, who are trying so hard to run after Jesus and love their wives. But I have seen some Christian men on Twitter push back on the scandal, and it is to those thinking like that that I write).

Yes, there are some women who climb the ladder by sleeping around, and some women obviously like the attention and dress provocatively. And, yes, you appreciate a woman's body,

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and you feel like you were hard-wired for that.

But just because some women seem to want to be sexualised does not mean that all women do.

And just because you appreciate a woman's body does not mean that you should reduce her to that. God wants you to treat women like they are whole people. There's a big difference between saying, 'you look very nice today', and 'that dress makes your butt look great' (with hand motions).

This is not about protecting women, either. When I was being groped in Tunisia, I was on a missions team with a bunch of men who said nothing and did nothing to help. That made me really angry. There are times we definitely need your protection.

But do you know what we need and want anymore? Simply your respect.

What grieves me far more than the groping is believing that the male gender sees me primarily in sexual terms, and doesn't really care about what I think. That's very difficult psychologically to handle.

Certainly you may appreciate a woman's body. But you do not need to mention that to her. You do not need to dwell on it. You can simply start talking to her about normal things and treat her like a person. That will help immensely. Be part of the solution to this cultural crisis, not part of the problem.

**To the women:
Please don't think all men are perverts**

Every morning I turn on the news right now to see which other celebrity has fallen overnight. There are almost too many to count now (and soon it will start happening in wider Christendom. Just wait).

The temptation we women face now is to give up on men.

I have heard so many women say, 'none of this would be happening if women were in charge.' I understand the sentiment, but we all have issues. They're simply different issues. Let's

not give in to the idea that women are superior than men. We are all made in the image of God.

It is so disheartening to see the extent of the problem. It is wonderful that it is coming to light, but there is part of me that is getting angry. Seriously? That many men treat women like that? A sitting US Senator thinks it's okay to grab a woman's buttocks while her husband is taking a picture of them? He thinks that's funny? He thinks it's funny to pretend to grab a sleeping woman's breasts?

And we hear of all of these media people masturbating in front of subordinates, and thinking that it's okay because the women obviously were coming on to them. Really?

I know it's tiring.

And if you can honestly type #metoo, I would imagine it's even more tiring. When people start doubting the stories and calling women liars, when you've been there, too. I'm sure it physically hurts.

How can you trust anyone now?

But, please, don't give up.

We're at a watershed moment as a church and as a culture right now. God is bringing things to light and bringing judgment on people who need it. But shining light has the propensity to make things look even more common than they actually are, because we are only looking at the light.

We aren't seeing all the other people who have been quietly going about their business, not doing anything wrong.

Our culture is realising that sexualising women is wrong. We are finally truly reckoning with it. That's good.

But for this movement to do the most good it must be about both genders coming together to find ways to mutually respect each other.

For the #metoo movement to be most effective, it must be about promoting mutual respect.

It must not be about the genders separating themselves to protect themselves. It should not be a men versus women thing. *It should simply be a humanity thing.*

It feels almost intoxicating to nurse anger sometimes, but reject the impulse. Yes, keep conversations going. Tell your stories, loudly and widely. Work for

positive change and do not compromise on the idea that objectifying women is always wrong.

But at the same time, remember that there are far more good men out there than there are bad men.

My friend who is being sexually harassed is having almost all her emotional energy stolen by one man right now. He is poisoning everything.

But there are so many other men in her life who are not like that. There are even so many men that she works with who are not like that. Let's denounce the evil without denouncing the entire gender.

We have covered for sexual harassment for far too long. We have sat by and laughed uncomfortably when someone made a sexual joke, because we didn't know what else to do.

We have put up with whistling and inappropriate touching because we didn't want to be rude or make a scene. It's okay to say 'stop'. It's okay to say 'no'.

But, please, let's not paint all men with the same brush.

Let's stand firm against the objectification and harassment of women, both in and out of the church. But then let's remember that God made us in His image; male and female He created them.

We are all sacred and special. And never, ever give up on men. Pray that God will show you wonderful men who do respect and honour women. Pray that those men will be emboldened to speak out.

And, even if you are tired, please, please do not give in to bitterness. This can be a healing moment in our culture or a polarising one. I pray, for the sake of our culture, that we will all, men and women together, make it a healing one.

**Gravity:
It's not just
a good idea,
it's the law.**

Taking the 'Fun' out of Dysfunctional



John Doyel
180recovery

Addictive behaviours start out small and then steadily grows. It may start with looking at porn once a month or once a week, but as time passes that will no longer be enough and so we act out more frequently and want more intensity.

In the past, it may take years for an occasional use of self-satisfying sex to become a habitual activity. However, today since anybody can access hardcore porn online for free this timeline can become much shorter causing more and more young people to become addicted at a much earlier age. Add to that a culture that talks about the value of porn and we only have gasoline being poured on the fire.

With this happening more and more over the past two decades we have what I call instant sex, with people becoming addicted at a much earlier age. At the heart of it all is a heart of selfishness that wants to simply use other people for sexual pleasure and then toss them aside in search for the next conquest.

This mindset is the absolute opposite of the kind of people we are called to be as followers of Christ. The passage we are looking at is Philippians 2.

'Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.'

We are asked to do some reflection about what God has done for us and how that has touched our lives. So, he asks four questions ...

1. Have you received any encouragement in Christ?
2. Have you gotten any consolation of love from Him?
3. Have you experienced any fellowship of the Spirit?
4. Have you received any affection and any compassion?

We need to ask ourselves these questions and answer them. So, let's start with the first.

Have I received ANY encouragement in Christ?

I don't know about you but my answer is YES, YES, a thousand times YES! Now I might not feel that way all the time. The consequences of my sinful choices have not been encouraging but very discouraging. The shame, fear, pain and suffering that sin has caused is what I can 'feel' everyday ... if I choose to dwell on it ... but I do not have to.

Are you living today looking at your past? Are you shifting through the trash of the train wreck that sin has brought into your life? Do you find yourself dwelling on the defeat and loss that sin has caused? I have a simple two-word command ... STOP IT!

The way we stop it is to spend time consciously and daily reminding ourselves of the love of God our Father, the incredible sacrificial gift of Jesus for all our sins and the indwelling presence of the Spirit in us who will never forsake us.



Look at Hebrews 12:1-2 ...

'Therefore, ... let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.'

Getting your bigger box is looking outside of the things that are holding you in and keeping you down and fixing your eyes on Christ today. He is the author of your faith today. He is the perfecter of your life today.

Read the Gospels and listen to Him. Witness His healing powers and inspired words of teachings. Become a student of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John ... all four of whom wrote their own first-hand accounts of spending 3 years with Him ... every day ... or wrote down what they learned from those who were with Him.

Have you received ANY encouragement in Christ? Why not start journaling a thought every day and come up with ONE thing from the Bible that Christ has done to encourage you? I promise you it will begin make a difference as you build a bigger box.

Used with
permission
doyel@me.com



Music resource

Five binders of
'Joshua' music



Really useful for a Joshua group

Email Tony for further information
tgrajnz@gmail.com

Exposing oneself, making oneself vulnerable, is opening up to everything, both good and bad. Take the two extremes of reaction possibilities; you may be punished and / or applauded by people. But with God you will always be applauded for making yourself vulnerable.

Like probably most who read my column, I don't fancy the idea of tall poppies; sticking my head up and fighting against the flow. But because Jesus led by example I acknowledge He expects us to do the same.

If you haven't already been put off and headed to a re-read of *Pride and Prejudice*, I shall now expose a little more of myself.

14 Firstly, I am a sinner, and I recognise that. I'm not proud of it, but that's what God's word tells me. *'For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23)*. Really? Perhaps I've now lost a few more readers!

Did those things help you?

Berni Dymet from christianityworks.com wrote in a recent email:

Romans 6:21-23: 'You did evil things, and now you are ashamed of what you did. Did those things help you? No, they only brought death. But now you are free from sin. You have become slaves of God, and the result is that you live only for God. This will bring you eternal life. When people sin, they earn what sin pays – death. But God gives his people a free gift-eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

'One of the reasons that I gave God rather a wide berth for rather a long time is that, there were things that I was doing that I knew were wrong and I didn't want to give them up. It's strange behaviour when you think about it, because those things that we know are wrong inevitably end up hurting us.

'Me? Well, I didn't want to give up my pride, my anger, my aspirations for wealth and success. I clung to them for



Whatever your views are, we welcome (almost) all of them as Letters to the Editor. Up to about 400 words is acceptable, and no one man's view covers all of the different interpretations. Please email me anything you'd like included, even if you'd like to comment on a Letter to the editor. Discussion is healthy.

Pen to Paper

Jack Ponting



dear life – until one day, I realised they were killing me, literally. I almost took my own life.

'You did evil things, and now you are ashamed of what you did. Did those things help you? No, they only brought death. (Romans 6:21)

It's a great question and in fact it's the right question. What benefit did I get from those things that I knew were wrong? Well, at the time I deluded myself into thinking that I was living a great life, when all along, I was dying inside. I had no peace, no joy, no hope for the future. My sin was ruining my life, the lives of the people around me and robbing me of any chance I may have had at having some good relationships.

'So, what's the alternative to that life? Well, Paul goes on to put it this way:

'But now you are free from sin. You have become slaves of God, and the result is that you live only for God. This will bring you eternal life. When people sin, they earn what sin pays – death. But God gives his people a free gift-eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:22-23)'

The alternative is living your life for God, turning away from the things we know are wrong, turning away from the things that are robbing us of life itself, and living in the certain hope of eternity with Him. The alternative is throwing out the rubbish, the sin, and discovering the peace, the joy and the power that God has ready and waiting for us.

'It makes you wonder: "how come I left it so long?"'

Getting back to me

Over many years I have been exposed to pornography which offered me the same 'satisfaction' each time. That involved a lot of emotional rollercoaster rides. Everything from happiness to disappointment, low self esteem, anger - and a host of others.

The details are echoes of John Doyel's article on page four of this issue, 'The Fix that Fixes Nothing'.

Now I find that God has led me to clearly choose the Holy Spirit to fill the void that was being filled so cheaply by the viewing of porn.

It is only now that I am completely

free of fear about what others may think of me, as well as questions of my own, that I am able to choose the way of life where the Holy Spirit truly offers complete satisfaction. With Him there is no disappointment.

Temptation is still there (for the 'quick fix') and the 'head messages' occasionally suggest that just a small peak won't hurt (yeah right!).

Are you 'ready' to change?

My friend John Doyel (regular readers will have noticed articles I have been including in the Joshua newsletter) has responded to my desire to run some 'speaking opportunities' in Australasia next year. Unfortunately I couldn't get enough commitment to make it happen.

It reads as follows:

'Anyway, as God leads you so I believe it to be His will for 180. I will say that I am disappointed, because I was really looking forward to coming to your area. I am going to be in Brazil in 2019 and speaking to a pastors' conference of 10,000 pastors which should be very exciting.

One other thing - I would love to start a 180 Online Support Team in your area. It is doing 180 as a small group, going through the videos and establishing the weekly support and daily accountability. I have 3 here in the USA and one in London England with 13 guys in it.

Could you see if there are some men that would like me to walk them through the 180 program online in a live streaming small group? Perhaps that is something we could begin now and see how it works.

Would anyone like to join me in trying what John is proposing? Your confidentiality will be paramount; both for yourself, and of others in the group.

Promise Keepers

Promise Keepers New Zealand have also begun a programme this year called Set Free. This is based on the Conquer series of instruction, but also aims to have on-going support groups.

If you're interested in either of these, or just want to comment, do send me a confidential email.

God bless you with your choices.