

Serving your enemy.

A Chinese Christian owned a rice paddy next to one owned by a communist man. The Christian irrigated his paddy by pumping water out of a canal, using one of those leg-operated pumps that make the user appear to be seated on a bicycle. Every day, after the Christian had pumped enough water to fill his field, the communist would come out, remove some boards that kept the water in the Christian's field and let all the water flow down into his own field. That way, he didn't have to pump.

This continued day after day. Finally, the Christian prayed, 'Lord, if this keeps up, I'm going to lose all my rice. I've got a family to care for. What can I do?'

In answer to his request, the Lord put a thought in his mind. So, the next morning he arose much earlier, in the predawn hours of darkness, and started pumping water into the field of his communist neighbour. Then he replaced the boards and pumped water into his own rice paddy. In a few weeks both fields of rice were doing well – and the communist was converted.

But if you are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn the other cheek. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. Luke 6:27, 29.

Volunteers

The work of our Church depends hugely on the goodwill and efforts of volunteers. To that end, we are looking for willing souls to help out on three fronts. Firstly, with Sunday School. Material is provided and it is a case of guiding our young ones through a few activities in the hall for about 30 minutes during our Sunday morning service.

We also need help with the preparation and serving of morning tea, and also with the cleaning of the Church on Saturdays. If you are willing to help, you would be added to the roster.

Please let me know if you are interested. We are fortunate to have such willing helpers to assist with the functioning of our Church. I am so very grateful.

Ash Wednesday/Lent.

Now that the Christmas trees have been put away for another year, we can look forward to another highlight of our Christian year, Lent, which is looming. Lent gets under way with Ash Wednesday (February 14th). We will be holding two services to celebrate this important day – 10.00am and 7.00pm.

As well, a Lent discussion group will be held on Thursday evenings beginning on Thursday 22 February. Pizzas will be served from 6.00pm with discussion getting under way at 6.30pm, and closing at 7.30pm. Details on the nature of our discussion nearer the time.

Website

We are indebted to Angeline Narayan for taking over the maintenance of our website – stpaulsinthepark.nz Please visit the site for information on services, newsletters, sermons and other events coming up.

Conserving water

Please be mindful that we depend on tank water and so do be careful with use of water through the summer months.

AGM

Our AGM will be held following the 10.00am service on Sunday 25 March (Palm Sunday). If you would like to nominate someone for a position on Vestry, please have a chat to them before then.

To ponder

'I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.' *Martin Luther King*



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