

St Paul's in the Park

Newsletter August 2018

To give is to receive.

In the Holy Land there are two seas, the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. The same river, the Jordan, feeds both. The Sea of Galilee teems with life – there are fish in its waters, trees grow on the shoreline and birdlife is everywhere. The Dead Sea lives up to its name – it does not sustain life, it is too salty to allow any plant life. One sea has life and the other is dead, yet the same river feeds both. What is the difference?

The answer is quite simple. The River Jordan flows into one end of the Sea of Galilee and then out the other, where it goes on to flow into the Dead Sea. However, there it stops. There is no outlet at the other end. So while the Sea of Galilee receives and then gives out, the Dead Sea just receives. The water remains there, the sun evaporates it and the salts are left behind. Because it is unable to give out and so keeps all that it receives, it chokes itself of life.

What a wonderful metaphor for life this is. To give is to not only to have life, but it enhances and creates life. When we give, we receive, and the more we give, the more we receive.

'If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over.' Luke 6:38

Just as a comment on the side, the salt content in the Dead Sea is so great that you can actually float completely unaided in its waters. I know because I have tried it!

Giving

On the theme of giving, our church finances continue to be in good shape and that is due in no small part to the generous giving of you all. A big thank you!

Pastoral care

We have good news on four fronts. Ken McFarland, having been in hospital for a spell, is now at home. He has to travel into Middlemore Hospital three times a week for dialysis treatment but his health has improved greatly and he is in fine fettle.

Joyce Armstrong has been in hospital for two weeks now, having contracted an infection in her kidneys. At one stage, she was extremely ill but has made a wonderful recovery and though she is still quite weak, she is looking forward to coming home at some stage in the not too distant future.

Audrey Rowson has been in hospital for two weeks, having experienced, once again, problems with her blood pressure. She has recovered well and is now home.

Maureen Brown has had a hip replacement and her recovery is going very well.

And just to top it off, Onosai Auva'a ended up in hospital this week with an infection in his arm which required operating on. He is back home and back at work.

The power of prayer!

Auckland City Mission appeal

Many thanks for the clothes, food etc that were donated in support of this appeal. The City Mission are most grateful and I can assure you they will be put to very good use.

Birth

David and Ailsa Bunker are the proud grandparents to Roya Ava Bunker born on 8 August (3.45kg) to Richard and Aditi. Congratulations!



To Ponder

‘A person who is nice to you, but rude to the waiter, is not a nice person.’ Dave Barry

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