

Perseverance in Prayer

Have you heard about the Chinese bamboo tree? The Chinese plant the seed; they water and fertilise it, but the first year nothing happens. The second year they water and fertilise it, and still nothing happens. The third and fourth years they water and fertilise it, and nothing happens. Then the fifth year they water and fertilise it, and sometime during the course of the fifth year, in a period of six weeks, the Chinese bamboo tree grows roughly ninety feet. The question is: Did it grow ninety feet in six weeks or did it grow ninety feet in five years? The obvious answer is that it grew ninety feet in five years, because had they not applied the water and fertiliser each year there would have been no Chinese bamboo tree.

We can draw a comparison between this anecdote and prayer. All too often when we pray we have a clear idea in our heads just how and when we expect our prayer to be answered. Invariably, we expect a prompt outcome, but the reality is that God's time is very different to ours.

In addition, perseverance shows that we are serious about our prayer and we are committed to prayer. Genuine prayer will yield a result, but sometimes we have to be a little patient.

"Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers." Ephesians 6:18

'I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and he turned to me and helped me.'
Psalm 40:1

Ken McFarland

Last Thursday, a stalwart of our church, Ken McFarland died. Ken had not been well for some time and now he is enjoying the love and comfort of our God. Our prayers and condolences are with Patricia, who has been such a loving support throughout Ken's health struggles.

Christian Leilua

On Friday I was able to watch the virtual streaming of the Tangaroa College prizegiving. To say that Christian, our keyboard player, featured would be an understatement. As well as receiving awards for music, public speaking, Samoan language, debating, creative writing, outstanding musical performance, he received the prize for Head Boy and Dux. He then made an outstanding speech in his role as Head Boy.

To cap it off, it was announced that he has received the Auckland University of Technology Hiki Ake scholarship valued at \$14,000 over three years, a Hall of Residence scholarship and a laptop! We are so very proud of you, Christian.

Ordination

Onosai's ordination as priest was supposed to have taken place last Saturday, but due to COVID has been postponed until Saturday 18 December. At this stage there will be a very limited number of people permitted to attend. Our prayers and best wishes are with you, Onosai.

Nativity Lights

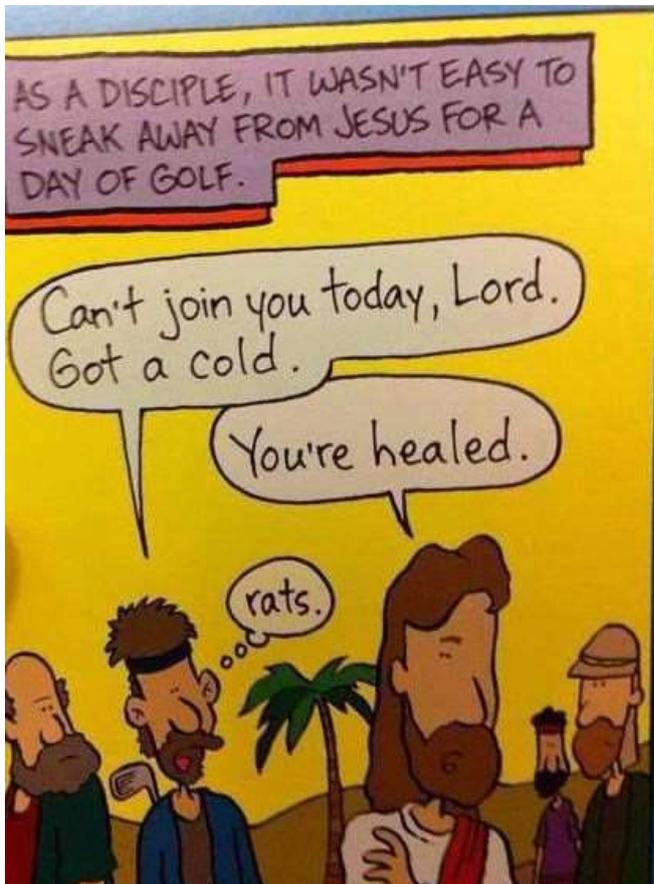
I do hope you can take a drive down Chapel Road after dark and have a look at our nativity lights. I have had some great feedback from those who have.

Again, a big thank you to Pete Darier and Cherian Mathew for setting these up.

Time for a Smile

'Mr Smith, I have reviewed this case very carefully,' said the divorce court judge, 'and I've decided to give your wife seven hundred dollars a week.'

'That's very fair, your honour,' the husband acknowledged, 'and every now and then I'll try and send her a few bucks too.'



To Ponder

'Always forgive your enemies – nothing annoys them so much.' Oscar Wilde

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