

Spiritual Nourishment

A foolish farmer, so the story goes, concluded one day that the oats he had fed his mule for years were simply costing him too much. So he hatched a plan: he mixed a little sawdust in with the feed, and then a little more the next day, and even more the next, reducing the amount of oats in the mix.

The mule didn't seem to notice the gradual change, so the farmer thought things were fine and kept decreasing the proportion of oats. But weeks later, on the day he finally fed the poor animal nothing but sawdust, the mule finished the meal and dropped dead.

A silly tale, perhaps, but it serves as a parable of the back-slider – the Christian who unwittingly slips further and further away from God through neglect. Though we know our soul cannot survive on spiritual sawdust, we may well convince ourselves that a little won't hurt too much, and a little less real spiritual won't be missed. Then, over time, the proportion of sawdust increases while the oats gradually disappear. Before long, the change is complete, and our starved sawdust-filled spiritual life has collapsed.

We lead busy lives and there are many demands on our time. It is all too easy to convince ourselves that at the moment we have other priorities and we will make up the time on our prayer, reading, worship and service, but we never do! Like anything in life, what we receive depends entirely on what we put in.

'A person will reap exactly what he plants.' Galatians 6:7

Food Bank

Keep that food coming! It is being put to great use.

Build Update

These updates seem to be never-ending, as does our efforts to get the build under way. We are waiting for the LOA (Landowner Approval) documents to be signed by both parties involved – the Diocese and the Auckland Council. Unfortunately, the lawyers involved continue to find questions/issues which prevent them from signing off. We are unable to renegotiate the tender with McMillan and Lockwood, which expired some months ago, until these documents are signed off. To say it has been a frustrating exercise would be an understatement. We should be building now! And unfortunately these delays will inevitably end up adding to the cost of the project.

On the fundraising front, we have done extremely well and are in a very good financial position to make a start.

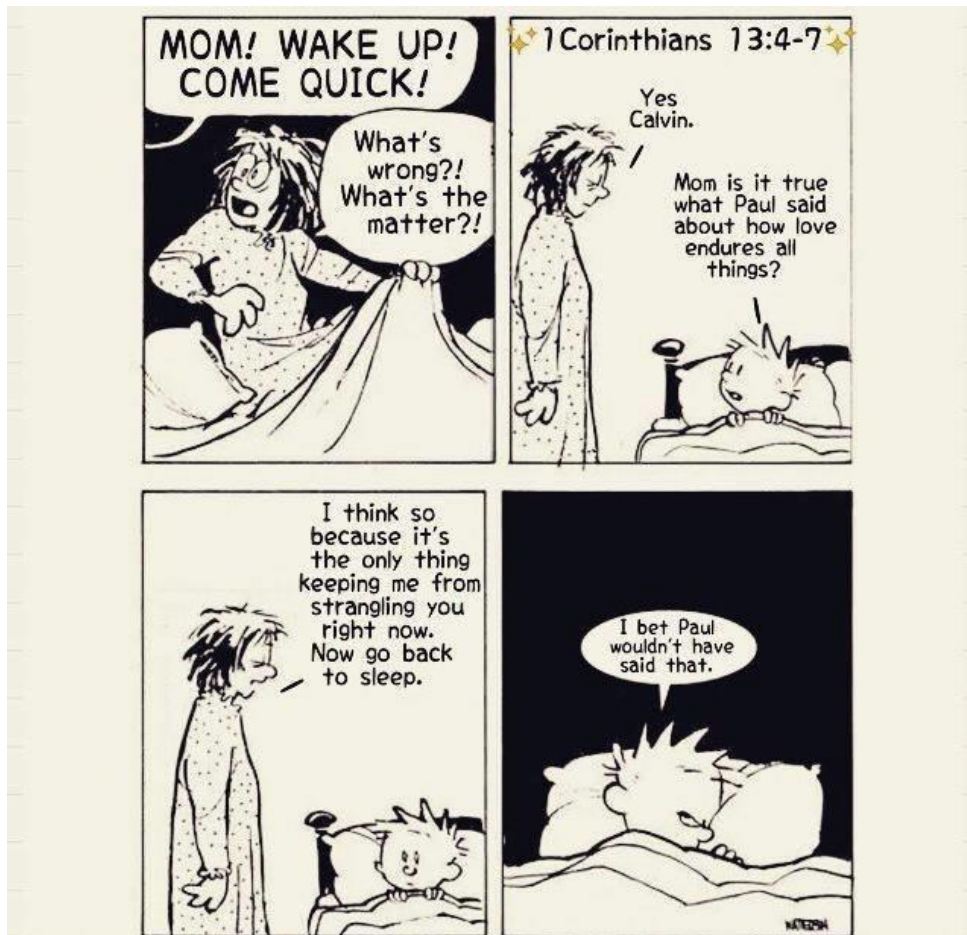
YouTube

I want to acknowledge the wonderful job Nigel Whyte does every week in editing and uploading our services on to YouTube. It is a big job, so thank you, Nigel.

Time for a Smile

A man goes into the doctor's and says, 'Doctor, I keep feeling that everyone thinks I am a liar.' 'I find that hard to believe,' replies the doctor.

A man is having his eyes tested. The optician tells him, 'I've got news for you. It turns out you are colour blind.' 'Oh, my goodness,' says the man. 'Well, that is certainly a bolt out of the green!'



To Ponder

'The only people who are truly happy are those who know what it means to serve others.'

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