

St Paul's in the Park Newsletter August 2023

Prayer in Action

Dwight L. Moody, 19th century American author and evangelist, on a trip across the Atlantic, helped the crew and other volunteers put out a fire in the hold of the ship. A friend said to Moody as they stood in the bucket line, 'Let's go to the other end of the ship and pray.' Moody, the common-sense evangelist, said, 'No, sir, we will stand right here and pass buckets and pray hard all the time we are doing so.'

That is prayer in action. Excerpt from sermon two weeks ago: 'Mahatma Ghandi said, "What is faith if it is not translated into action?" I would like to add my own take on that quote – "To be valid, prayer must translate into faith in action."'

'So you see, it isn't enough to just have faith. Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all – it is dead and useless.' James 2:17.

Social

Thank you to those who contributed to a financially successful fundraising social last Friday evening. We raised just over \$2,000 for the running of our church. Much-needed funds as we were approximately \$7,000 in the red as at July 31.

Build

There has been significant momentum over the past few weeks. Bishop Ross has had a meeting with someone from Auckland Council and as a result we should have the land swap ratified in the very near future. The waste water project will be under way at the beginning of October.

Yesterday John McClean and I travelled to Tauranga to meet with the construction company, McMillan and Lockwood. This was a very positive meeting – they are keen to make this project happen. The next 4 weeks will be extremely important as they renegotiate their tender with their suppliers and subcontractors.

Overall, very encouraging.

Christian Leilua

Last Sunday we had the chance to farewell Christian and thank him for his wonderful contribution to our worship through his keyboard playing. Christian joined us as a year 9 student at Tangaroa College and developed into an extremely accomplished musician. Unfortunately, his family have had to move to another area (Onehunga) for their worship so Christian is no longer available.

However, we are so very fortunate that Tua has been able to step into the breach. Thank you, Tua! We are most grateful.

Preaching

"The test of a preacher is that his congregation goes away saying, not 'What a lovely sermon,' but 'I will do something!'" ~ *Francis de Sales*

How very true!

Time for a Smile

The following conversation was heard between an old farmer and the new vicar.

'Do you belong to the Christian family?' asked the minister. 'No, they live two farms down,' replied the farmer. 'No, I mean are you lost?' 'Lost? Why, I have lived here for thirty years.' 'I mean, are you ready for the day of judgment?' 'When is it?' asked the farmer. 'Well, it could be today or tomorrow.' 'Well', said the farmer, 'when you find out when it is for sure, let me know. My wife will probably want to go both days.'



In his first attempt to be romantic,
Adam merely states the obvious.

To Ponder

'Daily prayer is the gymnasium of the soul.' Anon.

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