

Perseverance

As a young man, author AJ Cronin was a medical doctor in London's West End. He was a good doctor but he did have one character flaw – he didn't stick with any one thing for long.

One day, he was diagnosed with gastric ulcers and was prescribed with six months complete rest in the country. Cronin retreated to a small farmhouse. After a week of idleness, he felt himself going crazy. He recalled that some years ago he had considered becoming a writer, and so he decided he would write a novel. He tried to think of something to write but his mind was blank. Eventually, he was able to put pen to paper but it came very slowly. After three months he had very little to show for his efforts and he was dissatisfied with what he had written. He screwed up his sheets of paper, threw them into a rubbish bin and went for a walk.

He came across a farmer ploughing a paddock that resembled a bog. The farmer told him that his father had worked on this piece of land for many years and he was continuing to do the same. He said to Cronin, 'Both my father and I know that if we persevere, we will make a pasture from this bog.' Cronin was impressed. He tramped back to his farmhouse, retrieved his papers from the bin, and continued working on his manuscript with renewed determination. He sent the manuscript to a publisher and forgot all about it. Some weeks later, he received a telegram to say his manuscript had been accepted.

His novel, 'Hatter's Castle,' was chosen by the Book Society, dramatized, translated into nineteen languages, bought by Hollywood and went on to sell millions of copies.

The same goes for prayer. The fruits of prayer are invariably born through perseverance. Throwing out a brief prayer in the hope that God will catch it and act upon it, won't cut the mustard. Persevere!

'And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for.' Luke 11:9.

Jammies in June

The annual Kidz First Hospital appeal for kids' pyjamas is under way. They need to be new, button-up on the front, and can be up to size 16. If you are able to drop them off at church, that would be great. Otherwise, I am very happy to organise someone to pick them up.

Speaking of prayer (God's time)

A man met God and asked, 'What is a million years to you?' 'Like a second,' God answered. 'What is ten million dollars to you?' was the next question. 'Like a dime,' came the answer. 'Well then,' continued the man, 'Can I borrow a dime?' God responded, 'Just a second.'

When we lay a request on God, we invariably have a firm idea as to just how and when we want that request to be met. It is amazing how often God does answer but in a very different time frame that we have in mind.

Build

We continue to make good progress, although as is inevitably the case, there is the odd little challenge that crops up towards the tail end of a build. We do hope to be installed soon, so watch this space!

Opportunities remain for making a contribution to our project:

Two screens for the community rooms - \$2,000 each; two computers - \$2500 each; chairs – main auditorium \$180 each (Mission Dst of St Pauls in the Pk F 06 0991 0056055 01)

Food Bank

Please do keep that food coming. It is in great demand!

Pentecost Sunday

June 8 is Pentecost Sunday, one of the most important festivals in our Christian calendar. Pentecost Sunday is looked upon as the birthday of our church, so come along and join us for a great celebration.

Time for a Smile

Quick thinking: Three men are due to be executed by firing squad. The first man steps up and as the firing squad raise their guns, he shouts, 'Tornado!' The firing squad all turn to look and the man takes his chance, runs off and escapes.

The second man steps up. Again, as the firing squad are raising their guns, he shouts, 'Earthquake!' The firing squad all turn to look and he escapes.

Finally, the third man is led before the firing squad and thinks he will try the same trick. The firing squad raise their guns and he shouts, 'Fire!'

To Ponder

'It's not just what we do, but also what we do not do, for which we are accountable.' Anon.

Reverend Warner Wilder
021 548 407