

Honesty

The Des Moines Tribune (December 5 1968) reported an amazing event that occurred in South Africa. Two businessmen, Mr Rumbold, and his colleague, Mr Samuel, hung their coats over chairs while they had their lunch in Lusaka, Zambia. Afterwards, Mr Rumbold missed his wallet which obtained cash and coupons for gasoline.

Three days later, while driving back to Johannesburg, a middle-aged African waved them down. 'Are you going to Johannesburg?' he asked. When they replied in the affirmative, the African took a wallet from his pocket and said, 'Would you please try and find a Mr Rumbold there and give him this wallet? I found it in the street three days ago.'

Rumbold was speechless. Showing the African his identification, he examined the wallet. Nothing was missing. The poor, humble man refused a reward, saying, 'No, sir. I do not need a reward for not stealing. I am a Christian.'

This is a most beautiful story. On the one hand, the odds of this happening at all are beyond belief, but what makes it truly beautiful is the African's response. His take on the circumstances is a lesson for us all. His reply carries more weight and meaning than a whole sermon!

'Good people are guided by their honesty; treacherous people are destroyed by their dishonesty.'
Proverbs 11:3

'Nothing is more beautiful than honesty.' Steven Aitcheson

Carols at the Park

On Sunday 14 December we will be holding a community carol service at 7.00pm. The focus will be on the singing of carols and listening to the Christmas story unfold. We will be putting together a small choir comprising singers from our fellow churches.

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve 6.00pm Family Carol Service 11.00pm Holy Communion

Christmas Day 9.00am Holy Communion

Food Bank

Thank you for your support of our food bank. All donated food is distributed through the South Auckland Food Bank. Their CEO, Ian Foster, has asked me to pass on their grateful thanks for your support.

In the year to date, they have donated food to the value of \$4,600,000 to over 37,754 clients in genuine need in the South Auckland community. They also provide budgeting advice to many people.

So please keep that food coming!

Finances

In terms of our church operation, we are currently in arrears. An 'appeal' will be appearing in your email inbox in the near future as we attempt to address this situation.

I do need to point out that the setting up of our new church and community centre is quite separate from 'church operation.'

Latha

I would like to acknowledge and thank Latha Nelapati for the finishing touches she puts to the layout and design of our Sunday service programmes. Thank you, Latha, for your skill and creativity.

Time for a Smile

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw an opportunity for a moral lesson. 'If Jesus was sitting here, he would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.' Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, 'Ryan, you be Jesus!'

Life's Philosophers

WH Auden....

We are here on earth to do good unto others. What the others are here for, I have no idea.

Arnold Schwarzenegger....

Having more money doesn't make you happier. I have 50 million dollars but I'm just as happy as when I had 48 million.

To Ponder

'God promises a safe landing but not a calm passage.' Bulgarian proverb.

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