

HALO



March 2024

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH TARADALE

From the Minister



**If you don't like something,
change it.**

**If you can't change it,
change your attitude.**

Don't Complain.

MAYA ANGELOU

This was in a mail I received today with a title "Complain less Celebrate more." It suggested a game could be played where when life throws lemons at you, you make lemonade and are thankful for the free lemons. In this game you see how you can change your circumstances or change your attitude in one or more things every day with the aim of removing complaining from your life. They even supplied a score card. The person who sent me this email had sent another I like which said you either win or you learn, and

learning is winning. Again, the aim is to not waste your challenges or problems.

Turning defeats into triumphs is the theme of Easter. Hate and sin and evil did their best to get Jesus to turn on God or on those who mistreated him and so come under their power, but he remained faithful to God and God's purpose. When he died, they thought the game was over BUT GOD called extra time and, in the resurrection, proved that sin and hate and evil really had no power at all over Jesus. And Jesus was giving his victory to all who joined his team. As Eph 2:3-5 says it "By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!"

The battle with sin and hate and evil is something that we still engage in but we do so knowing two things. First the ultimate victory is already ours – there is no place for fear or

anxiety about our final standing. Secondly the power that filled Jesus is also available to us. He was motivated by love for God and love for his fellow human beings and filled by God's Spirit – so if we can be filled with love and the Spirit, we too have the possibility of victory.

The Cross was the great moment where Jesus dethroned the powers, and changed the way we relate to God. Now we come to God on the basis of already having God's seal of approval, not seeking to earn it or being afraid we could lose it. We are God's Children by grace and faith. Jesus spent no time complaining about his unjust treatment and so we get to celebrate his victory and his gift to us.

This means when you face problems you can do something about it – we can act fearlessly. Or if it is something we can't change we can still rejoice knowing we are radically loved, and so we can change our attitude. We can use the circumstances to learn to trust in God's goodness, we can be looking in hope for what God can and will do. So, whether we end up changing the circumstances or changing our attitude we have won and so can celebrate and be grateful rather than complaining.

We hope you will join us at Easter to hear more about God's Grace and Love and that you invite others to hear this wonderful message.

Brett

Easter services

Good Friday

9.30am at the church

11am Inter-church walk with
the cross

Easter Sunday

9.30am at the church

(Service includes Communion)

He is
not here,
He has
Risen!
Luke 24:6

A Fair Cop

Actually it wasn't—he was dark haired and swarthy of skin, but he copped me.

I spent the night in a cell and pitied the men and women doomed to spend months or even years behind bars. It wasn't particularly cold, but it was a bare, forbidding place. The solid wooden bed was immovable and having no mattress was no more comfortable than if I had slept, or tried to sleep, on the floor. Man it was hard!

I couldn't complain about the room service though. At around 7am a policeman entered and placed a breakfast tray beside the bed with bacon, eggs, tomatoes and fried bread and a steaming hot cup of strong Lancashire tea ... it was a welcome and surprising start to the day and I was most grateful.

But maybe I should tell you how I ended up in a cell before you start jumping to conclusions.

I was a student at the time and planned to spend a weekend with my parents who lived a hundred miles from the college. I couldn't afford the train or bus so did what I

often did, I hitch-hiked. Getting from Baslow to Upholland meant taking a series of short lifts, first to Buxton, then Stockport, Bolton and, finally Wigan. I had planned to arrive in Wigan in time to pay my 5p and catch the 9.12pm train to Upholland and home...but I missed it. Not by much, but I missed it, and there were no more trains until the morning.

Hitching the last ten miles at that time of night was not really an option. In the 1950s there were not many cars about and certainly very few heading for my home village. If I had not been so tired I might have walked, but I really was very tired.

A dear friend of mine used to tell the story of the old couple who ran for the train and missed it like me. As they sat waiting for the next train the old lady said, "You know dear, I might have winter in my hair, but I've got summer in my bosom." to which the old man replied, "Aye, and if tha'd had a bit more spring in thee legs we might 'ave caught yon train."

With what spring remained in my legs I walked to the little Methodist

Church where I had had my life changing encounter with Christ. On that evening He had ceased to be a mere figure of distant history to me and had become my Lord and Saviour. The college I was attending was a training college for young men wanting to serve the Lord, and that was me.

Arriving at the church I looked for a place to spend the night. The porch had a bench which beckoned and I decided to give it a try. Wrapping my coat around me and resting my head on my rucksack I tried to sleep. A street lamp on the pavement by the gate seemed to twinkle as its light was filtered through the branches of a nearby tree.

I didn't hear any footsteps but became suddenly aware of a presence.... a presence in blue to be



exact. I half expected him to say, "Ello. ello ello." but all he said was, "What are you doing here?"

He listened as I related my tale of the day and then said, "I know who you are – my daughter is a member of the youth group of this church... you'd better come with me." And that's how I ended up in a cell at the local police station. It was certainly better than the porch and the breakfast was the best I had had all week, much better than college breakfasts!

A ride in a police car to the station later in the morning made me feel like royalty – even though it was only a Morris Minor.

I've thought of that night often since and thanked God - first of all for the kind policeman who just happened to be patrolling the beat near the church at just the right time. And I have thanked God that, unlike some of my siblings, I have never had to spend time in a cell for my wrong doing, and most of all I thank God that being rescued by that policemen from a night in the cold air, is nothing to be compared to the salvation I have found in Jesus.

When He found me, for that is what

happened, I was not consciously looking for Him, but, rather like the man in blue, He came silently into my life and said, “What are you doing here?” and I could only answer, “I don’t know. I don’t know why I’m here, I don’t know where I’m going and my life is little more than a catalogue of unanswered questions.”

When He said, “You’d better come with me.”, like the disciples of old, I rose and followed Him, and have been doing so ever since – imperfectly and with difficulty at times, but I can think of no higher



calling or greater privilege than to follow Jesus. Not to a police cell of course, but eventually to a place in His Father’s house where supper is being prepared. He promised. (John 14:1ff)

Duncan Leighton

Kids Friendly Care



We provide a **FUN** and safe environment for children aged 5-13 years old

Before School: 7.30am-8.30am
After School: 3pm-5.30pm
Holiday Programme: 7.30am-5.30pm
WINZ APPROVED

Our doors are always open so feel free to come in and meet the team!

176 Gloucester Street, Taradale Phone 022 643 1691

Feeling Blah?

Try the 7 UPS....

1. Wake UP.... and decide to have a good day

"This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it" Psalm 118:24

2. Dress UP.... and wear a smile

"Man looks at the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart" Samuel 16:7

3. Shut UP.... and learn to listen. we have two ears and only one mouth for a reason

"He who guards his lips guards his life" Proverbs 13:3

4. Stand UP.... for what you believe.

If you don't stand for something you will fall for anything

"As we have opportunity, let us

do good to all people" Galatians 6:10

5. Look UP....to heaven

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" Proverbs 3:5

6 Reach UP.... for something higher

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength" Philippians 4:13

7. Lift UP....your prayers

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" Philippians 4:7

Cheer UP....You are not alone

PASS IT ON

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are here to pray for you!



We have a prayer group who are willing to take prayer requests and to pray for you or any situation you are concerned about. Please phone Rona Russell (845 2158).

There is also a confidential prayer chain if you would like many people to pray for you. Contact Anna or Brett.



We're fundraising for Breast Cancer Foundation NZ.

Sunday 26 May
Mark it on your calendars

Morning Tea after Church—10.45am

Everyone welcome
Men, Women and children

\$12 per person
Good coffee, selection of teas and
excellent food

Donations can be made online to
receive a tax receipt

More info to come...



**Help raise funds for breast
cancer research, education
and patient support.**

A Blast from the Past

Golden Queen peaches and their fragrance brings back more of St Columba's memories. Firstly, in our 'old' kitchen the Guild Ladies did the preserving. There is no available record of the quantities but it was a very laborious process with pots on the Kitchen stove.

When Eldred Loeber was manager at Atawhai, Ray and Caroline Neill volunteered to be in charge of the preserving. The process had to happen between the serving of the mid-day meal and tea time as the Atawhai kitchen was being used. So the St Columba's volunteers with their sharp knives prepared the fruit while Ray used the rings on the commercial stove to do the cooking. As Caroline recalls when the ladies all left for home Ray was left to complete the job. The preserves were for the residents at Atawhai.

The fruit for the projects, peaches and pears, were donated by members of the Congregation and orchardist supporters.

We then moved into the 90's and the generosity of Ngaire and Ross Duncan at 'Adelong' who donated

the fruit they grew. This time the preserving was done in the evening and by the members of the Women's fellowship. Ngaire was the team leader, assisted by Margaret Dorrington and of course, they used the Adelong Golden peaches. This meant that Ngaire was left to finish the job!! Preservers were now being used so no getting hot and bothered over hot pans. They had moved into the modern age!! Anne Lanigan thinks they did this for five seasons (she would know as she was part of this team).

Anne presumes that this preserving project was part of our Church outreach for P.S.S.A now known as Presbyterian Support.

For several years, under the guidance of Marjorie Marshall, the ladies met in the Fish Hall to juice lemons. This juice was bottled and sent to the South Island Parishes and was a A.P.W project.

Thank you to Anne Lanigan for these memories. It's good to be reminded of the amazing projects that were achieved all those years ago.

Two Fold Op Shop

Two Fold is going well. We are short of volunteers for Wednesdays, so, have made a change to the trading hours. Wednesday hours are being shortened to 10am – 2pm. These hours will start on 20th March. PLEASE, if you have three hours to spare on one of our trading days, (Tuesday to Thursday), the various duties are ironing, serving the customers, folding or putting

out clothes on the racks. Perhaps you can spare an hour to do some ironing, or make price tags at home.

At a recent committee meeting funds were distributed (in accordance with the constitution) to the following:

- Church \$14000
- Coffin Club \$1000
- VIP Family Services \$1000
- Rescue Helicopter Trust \$1000
- St Johns \$1000
- Cancer Society Shuttle Bus \$1000
- Starship Flight \$1000
- CanInspire HB \$1000

A big thank you must go to our three co-ordinators. Without them the shop would cease to operate.

Over the past six months we have renewed the flooring; had new curtains made for the side windows; and, held a successful end of year thank you morning tea for our volunteers.

On Tuesday 2 April our end of season sale starts for two weeks. Then, from Tuesday 16 April we will start selling our winter stock.



Board of Manager Update

We are a small group that works well together, and we decided this year not to have a formal chairman but to rotate this responsibility on a monthly basis so that we share the load by each having a turn. This is working well and creates an informal atmosphere during meetings.

What has kept us busy?

Installed new carpet tiles and light tubes in Fish Hall, negotiating with Napier City Council for a reduction in the rates of the Op Shop, arranging training sessions for the sound desk and the use of the defibrillator and introducing practical Health and Safety measures in the way we operate. The Wednesday working group operates well and is generally “on top of things”.

The big issue of how to make our buildings compliant with the current building code is an ongoing project. We had visions of completing this swiftly and our engineer submitted the plans to Napier City Council for a Building Consent in October. Unfortunately, this has created further delays as Council requested a “Fire Report” to establish the state

of our buildings against the current fire code.

This report stated that we should install a brand new “zoned” fire alarm system, coat everything made of wood with a special fire-retardant paint which can only be purchased from and applied by a specially trained contractor, fit emergency lighting that shines on all our exit routes should the power fail after dark and also equip our doors with panic buttons.

This would cost “mega bucks” and would make the strengthening of the old buildings unaffordable. We have now submitted an amended proposal to NCC and are waiting for their response before we can go ahead and get proper quotes for the necessary building alterations. We trust that Council is not unreasonable and does not insist we do all the above.

The Manse needs a new coat of paint. To date we have not organised this, but it should probably be tackled after the winter season.

Wim

For the Board of Managers



THE DIFFERENCE

I got up early one morning and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish that I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me, and heavier came each task.
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered. He answered, "You didn't ask."

I wanted to see joy and beauty, but the day toiled on, gray and bleak;
I wondered why God didn't show me. He said, "But you didn't seek."

I tried to come into God's presence; I used all my keys at the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided, "My child, you didn't knock."

I woke up early this morning, and paused before entering the day;
I had so much to accomplish that I had to take time to pray.

In Memoriam

We give thanks for the life of Heather Turner who is recently deceased.

Heather was the donor of the Pohutukawa tree mentioned in the last Halo. She was an active member of the Congregation during the 70's and 80's.

Heather was also a well known Hawke's Bay craftswoman.

Baptism Testimonies

Hello! My name is Christine and I have always known about the love and grace of God. So recently i decided to get baptised to show my faith outwardly.



Hi! My name is Abby and I grew up going to church and with amazing Christian parents who laid an important foundation for me.

However, I didn't take my faith very seriously until the last few years where I began going to youth group, attending church and going to a new Bible study. My faith grew a lot in this time and recently I got baptised with some of my best friends.

I am so excited to see what God does in my life.

What's on in March, April & May 2024

Sunday	17 Mar	9.30am	Church Service
Friday	29 Mar	9.30am	Good Friday Service
Sunday	31 Mar	9.30am	Easter Sunday Communion Service
Sunday	7 Apr	9.30am	Church Service
Tuesday	9 Apr	10.30am	Tuesday Church Service
Sunday	14 Apr	9.30am	Church Service
		1.30pm	Patoka Church Service
Thursday	18 Apr	7.00pm	Board of Managers Meeting
Sunday	21 Apr	9.30am	Church Service
Thursday	25 Apr	7.00pm	Session Meeting
Sunday	28 Apr	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday	5 May	9.30am	Church Service
Sunday	12 May	9.30am	Church Service
		1.30pm	Patoka Church Service
Tuesday	14 May	10.30am	Tuesday Church Service
Thursday	16 May	7.00pm	Board of Managers Meeting
Sunday	19 May	9.30am	Church Service
Thursday	23 May	7.00pm	Session Meeting
Sunday	26 May	9.30am	Family Service
		10.45am	Pink Ribbon Fundraiser (see page 8)
Sunday	30 Apr	9.30am	Church Service

Regular Events

Tuesdays	Op Shop open Contact: 844 5004	10.00am - 4.00pm
	Tuesday Church Service 2nd Tuesday of the month	10.30am - 11.30am
	House Group Contact: Colin Zachan 844 8050	7.00pm
	House Group @ Church Contact: Brett Walker 844 2256	7.00pm - 8.30pm
	Women's Fellowship meeting 4th Tuesday of the month	7.30pm
Wednesdays	Mainly Music Contact: Karen Jensen 021 069 5909	9.30am - 10.30am
	House Group @ Church Contact: Brett Walker 844 2256	10.15am
	Op Shop open Contact: 844 5004	10.00am - 2.00pm
	Craft Group 1st Wednesday of the month Contact: Ruth Stoddart 844 2336	7.00pm
Thursdays	Mainly Music Contact: Karen Jensen 021 069 5909	9.30am - 10.30am
	Op Shop open Contact: 844 5004	10.00am - 4.00pm
	Board of Managers meeting 3rd Thursday of the month	7.00pm
	Session meeting 4th Thursday of the month	7.00pm
Fridays	Massive Bible Study Contact: Steve Demetrius 027 698 4048	6.00pm - 7.00pm
	Massive Youth Group Contact: Steve Demetrius 027 698 4048	7.00pm - 9.00pm
Sundays	Kool Kids Contact: Pam Thrupp 027 429 6305	9.30am- 10.30am

St Columba's Elders

Session Clerk: Joanne Magill

Rev Brett Walker	027 408 3658
Joanne Magill	022 687 9130
Joes Polehwidhi	021 215 8729
Jon Read	027 236 1314
Claire Smith	027 678 8849
Stefan Steyn	027 436 1708
Barry Thrupp	021 0269 8370
Pam Thrupp	027 429 6305
Keith Woodcock	027 449 5948
Colin Zachan	844 8050



Pastoral Care

Rev Brett Walker	027 408 3658
Inger Slooten	844 9070
Sarah Atley	845 3448
Esther Woodcock	844 1424

Board of Managers

Treasurer: Wim Slooten

Rev Brett Walker	027 408 3658
Steve Magill	022 687 9131
Tracey Shadbolt	027 278 0780
Edward Smith	844 6324
Ron Sim	843 9980
Wim Slooten	021 550 305
Mark Stoddard	021 076 3089
Anne Tristram	021 118 6516
David Walker	022 140 3961

Children's Programmes

Kool Kids

Pam Thrupp
027 429 6305

Youth Group

Steve Demetrius
027 698 4048

Kids Friendly Care

Anna Neil
022 643 1691

Mainly Music

Karen Jensen
021 069 5909

