

CHAPEL MESSAGES FOR THE WEEK ENDING 6th MARCH 2020

by: Rev Ali'itasi Aoina-Salesa - Superintending Chaplain

O le ala i le pule ma le manuia, o le tautua.
The path to leadership and success, is service.

MONDAY, 2nd MARCH 2020

Good Morning All

Welcome to Week 6.

Cloudy skies greet us this morning. Giving thanks for the new day.

Our central Chapel theme throughout Lent leading up to Easter is MY WHY. The focus this week is GOODNESS.

The Bible reading was from Galatians 6:3-10 on page 1454 in the Wesley Bibles.

For the last five weeks our chapel themes have focussed on OUR WHY as a School ... the values and living principles which together we want to follow and live up to. Values which guide us, inform us about the expectations that the School has of each of us. When we follow these values and living principles it helps us to make good decisions ... it helps to make our school a good place to be in ... it helps us to be good people.

In this season of Lent which is given over to personal reflection – asking ourselves the hard questions Who am I ... what makes me the person I am ... what are the things I believe in ... what are the values I follow?

Given this, the transition from OUR WHY to MY WHY fits well. Our theme for this week is GOODNESS!

In most contexts, the concept GOOD refers to that preferred action when faced with a decision to make ... what is right!

The definition of goodness is kindness, generosity, integrity, honesty. Some examples of GOODNESS ... volunteering at a hospice, serving meals at a homeless shelter. Last week some of our Chapel Committee went and collected donations for Cancer Kids ... an email was received from a person commending a group of students who while waiting for their bus noticed some rubbish bins had overturned on the roadside ... the students moved the rubbish bins and then picked up all the rubbish ...GOODNESS!

In talking with my AM Group this morning about why their generation aren't so GOOD about telling the truth and they knew instantly what I meant. One student said 'Rev, we're born like that!' NO! NO! NO! (students are laughing at my dismay) ... you are not born like that, you are born good, you are born honest, I said. OMG!!! So how do we become not so good, how is it we're not truthful? We learn it? Yes you learn it ... it is a learnt behaviour.

So as a result of some new learning this morning, the Boys in my Group made a GOOD decision ... to find new friends to learn GOOD things! We live in hope.

The Bible reminds us that GOODNESS is a true commitment to choosing right over wrong, good over evil.
v9 Let us not become weary in doing good for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

When we do GOOD the promise is GOODNESS will come back to us ... GOOD things will happen to us, for us.

GOODNESS then is a GOOD thing ... when we do good and are good ... we are family, we are respectful, we become responsible and we live the only way ... God's way ... the way of excellence.

Have a blessed day and week.

TUESDAY, 3rd MARCH 2020

Good Morning All

A warm start to the day. Feeling blessed!

THANK YOU to the Chapel Committee who last week collected for Cancer. As a result of their GOOD deed the Cancer Society are using a video of our students singing as a promo for their Charity. Nice!

Our theme 'My WHY' with the focus this week on GOODNESS!

The Bible reading was from Galatians 5:22-26 on page 1454 in the Wesley Bibles.

The biblical term 'Fruit of the Holy Spirit' sums up the attributes or qualities of a person who lives with Jesus in their hearts.

According to Galatians:5 '... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.'

'Fruit means the GOOD things that come from God's spirit living within us.

As the Holy Spirit works in our lives, our character changes.

We embody love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Every attribute reflects God's character, who God is. God wants to gift us the same qualities knowing the quality of life it will allow for us and for all people.

GOODNESS is a quality and holiness in action and results in a life characterized/marked by good deeds as well as the desire not just to be GOOD, but to be a blessing. It's a characteristic of a Spirit-filled person whose GOOD deeds are always about the benefit for others, not GOODNESS simply for the sake of doing GOOD.

GOODNESS is not a quality self-made. In letting the Holy Spirit live within us, we are blessed with the fruit of GOODNESS. As others see our GOOD works, all thanks and praise for God's thoughtfulness in gifting GOODNESS and the ability to share GOODNESS with others in ways which brings joy and lifts our spirits. It's a GOODNESS that doesn't want payback but is thankful simply in making others happy.

MY WHY ... GOODNESS ...the purpose of my life is to live a life of purpose!

Have a blessed day.

WEDNESDAY, 4th MARCH 2020

There was no Chapel message today.

THURSDAY, 5th MARCH 2020

Good Morning All

A cooler start to the morning and cloudy skies. Giving thanks.

Our theme is 'OUR WHY' and the focus on GOODNESS this week.

The Bible reading was from 2 Corinthians 9:6-12 on page 1443.

The Season of Lent calls us to self-reflection, that self-examination which causes us to consider our every day life and living in the face of God's GOODNESS. If GOODNESS is at the core of who God is and is the essence of what God does ... what is at our core ... what in the way we live our life reflects what is our very essence? Will what we discover about ourselves ring in a time of change, a time of renewal, a time of being honest and true to oneself and to others, true before God?

Our School is a place where for the most part our young people are allowed to 'be' and sometimes in their 'being' they will stuff up big time, crash and burn, but they do so knowing that yep there will be consequences but also, that in their 'stuffing up' is where God too grounds them in unbelievable grace ... big time! They see God's grace at work when there is forgiveness, a welcoming back and an acceptance that it's a new day, a new start for them.

They are enabled to see what is at the core of OUR WHY as a School and are caused to examine THEIR WHY anew and discover the GOODNESS that God's GOODNESS has gifted them each with. They change, lives are changed and all the while we are giving thanks for them , for us, but heaps and heaps to God for who God is and does for us together.

God is good ... all the time ... and so are our young people who continue their journey knowing that they are loved, knowing that they are cared for, knowing who God is. They might not understand fully what this means but life will deal to that in God's time and when they are ready. Giving thanks!

Have a blessed day.

FRIDAY, 6th MARCH 2020

There was no Chapel message today.

