

CHAPEL MESSAGES FOR THE WEEK ENDING 20th MARCH 2020

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

MONDAY, 16th MARCH 2020

Good Morning All

Welcome to Week 8 a bit overcast but we're giving thanks always.

Our Chapel theme for this week is GIVE THANKS FOR LIFE

The Bible reading was Psalm 127 on page 756 in the Wesley Bibles.

Given the state of flux our world at present is in, it seemed pertinent this morning to remind our young people of the gift of life we have all been given, the worth of that gift and the unconditional love of the Gift Giver in giving.

While there is much in the way of 'talk' from every corner of the world around Coronavirus, there is the sense too that we are rendered 'speechless' in the face of this pandemic which really, we are being held ransom by. Deliverance will come with those who are working frantically on an antidote but the writing is on the wall ... things will become worse before they become better. The impact of which is being felt in every sphere of life and across the whole of all of life throughout the world. We pray for those families who have lost loved ones. We pray for those unwell. We pray for a depth of integrity and honesty as humanity is confronted by the truth of COVID - 19 for us all.

This Lenten Season we are caused to reflect and to be reflective, to be thankful and to give thanks for our life, the life of our families and communities, the life of our world always in light of the One whose life was given for us.

Have a blessed day.

TUESDAY, 17th MARCH 2020

Good Morning All

It's a chilly start to our day on the Farm ... we're giving thanks for the new day!

We continue with our theme for the week 'GIVE THANKS FOR LIFE'

The Bible reading was from Thessalonians 5:12-18 on page 1484 in the Wesley Bibles.

An 'attitude of gratitude' helps to give us an appreciation for just how blessed we truly are, even in the worst of circumstances.

Yesterday it was officially announced that Polyfest was cancelled in light of COVID-19. Students and staff here and throughout Auckland will be reeling from the news which for many will be the second consecutive year Polyfest has had to be cancelled. Student's initial response understandably is one of disappointment, anger and blame in their effort to try and find meaning and understanding.

GIVING THANKS FOR LIFE can be really hard when life deals us an equally 'hard hand.' GIVING THANKS empowers us to see the bigger picture beyond me, myself and I and effects a change of heart and outlook.

By GIVING THANKS we are then enabled to see God present us with hope and a new light of hope. Time and again the Bible reminds us, challenges us, invites us to be thankful, and how this is a trait and the character of the people of God. GIVING THANKS brings blessing because it is the only response we can make when we realise what we have been gifted in the gift of life. The realisation causes us to give and to bless others - so that they too will see God's goodness and also GIVE THANKS. An 'attitude of gratitude' always puts things into perspective and enables us to see what we may not have been able to see before.

Have a blessed day.

WEDNESDAY, 18th MARCH 2020

Good Morning All

A sunnier but cooler start to the day. God is good!

GIVE THANKS FOR LIFE ... is our theme for this week.

The Bible reading was from 1 Chronicles 16:31-36 on page 506 of the Wesley Bibles.

Out here on the farm our sheer location and subsequent isolation from 'mainstream life' can often cause us, to become insulated and shielded from all that happens beyond our Wesley gates. On many an occasion we have given thanks for this distancing and protection. With COVID - 19 we are being made more than aware of the gift of life and to be thankful.

When our world is in the midst of turmoil and upheaval, where fear and panic and the unknown lurks in the minds of many, the challenge for us here at school is to remain calm and to keep our students informed daily of the impact of COVID - 19 on our country, the world and why things are happening the way they are. As the adults it is our responsibility to maintain a sense of normality about our School life, but also to ensure that our students are made aware of the gravity of the global nature of the virus.

On a small scale it hits home when events like Polyfest, and all School sport netball and rugby are suspended.

Tomorrow we will move chapel to the Rec Centre because of the advice around 'social distancing.'

In all of this, the Bible reading comes to remind us that God is good and God's love endures forever.

The reminder can be difficult, hard to hear, to see, given the global crisis but it is for this very reason we need to see, to hear, to be reminded and to be the calm all 'seeing' voices not just for now, but every day. As God's love endures forever we are the hands and feet of that love, embodying and exemplifying at it's very best what this is and means. We continue to pray for our world, our country, our island homes, those families who have lost loved ones, those families who are caring for the unwell, those who have lost their jobs and incomes. Let us pray together ...

Have a blessed day.

THURSDAY, 19th MARCH 2020

There was no Chapel message today.

FRIDAY, 20th MARCH 2020

Good Morning All

Yay ... the sun's pushing it's way through our cloudy skies on the Farm. We continue to give thanks.

We bring to a close our theme for the week GIVE THANKS FOR LIFE.

The Bible reading was from Ephesians 5:19-20 on page 1462 in the Wesley Bibles.

As the students were reminded this morning GIVING THANKS FOR LIFE is more than just our weekly theme. It is a practice which results from being thankful every day for life and blessing.

It is a habitual routine we give effort and time to because our heart yearns to be thankful because we understand blessing, we understand God's providence, we understand God's grace, we understand God's unconditional love.

The Prime Minister in her daily sharing of information, always ends her briefing with the call for us as a people and nation to be 'KIND' to one another. Given the unprecedented times we are in, the call to KINDNESS comes as we find ourselves in a time of crisis we have not ever experienced before. KINDNESS though is not something which is new to us or comes only as a result of these unsettling days. KINDNESS is a custom and habit we practice every day and many of us even without thinking. The challenge is to hold on to and maintain these values and practices which will keep us steadfast and see us through the crisis. While we may struggle to see blessing and providence and love amidst the turmoil, when we are kind, when we are loving, when we are caring, when we are strong, when we are thankful ... these ways validate God 'with us - IMMANUEL' in the most powerful of ways ... in us and through us with God beside us.

The reading from Ephesians reminds us that thankfulness as is kindness stems from the heart ... it's heartfelt stuff the realisation we have much to be thankful for and then the need to find expression for that heartfelt yearning equally so.

As we worshipped this morning I looked at our children sitting on the bleachers practicing 'social distancing.' My seeing them moved me to tears as my heart gave thanks for each one of them. They may not fully comprehend what is happening around them but they know something's up and they look to us who do know and understand, trusting us to keep them safe.

Let us be constant in our GIVING THANKS, let us be constant in our kindness towards one another, let us be ...

Have a blessed day.