

CHAPEL MESSAGES FOR THE WEEK ENDING 27th 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, 23rd MARCH 2020

Good Morning All

A wet one today on the farm but giving thanks always for the new day.

OUR PRAYERS for all our families and loved ones overseas. Stay safe.

We continue to GIVE THANKS FOR LIFE

The Bible reading was from Colossians 3:15-17 on page 1477 in the Wesley Bibles.

v15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts since as members of one body, you were called to peace. And be thankful.

v16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly ...singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

v17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God through Him.

The Principal reminded those of us at School today it's business as usual and that there is much to be THANKFUL FOR...for one another, that we are all here at school, that our School is still open for learning, that we still have the opportunity to hang out with our friends, that we are all well. Heaps to be THANKFUL for. THANK YOU to everyone for the measures we are all taking to ensure that as a school, community and family we are being kept as safe as we possibly can.

When all around us and throughout the world is crazy, we're reminded that peace is something which we have to keep us from adding to the craziness. We have a peace grounded in Christ and God's love for us which says nothing, nothing that is happening will ever cause God to leave us alone or to abandon us. We see God everyday in the kindness of people towards one other, we see it in the ways people are rallying to think about others in their families and communities who are the most vulnerable, we see it here at school as we navigate each day with our children ensuring that they are ok in every way.

An 'attitude of gratitude,' allowing the peace of Christ to rule our hearts and decisions will be our way throughout this time.

In such uncertain times stories like Qantas and subsidiary Jet Connect have not made redundancies in spite of the aviation crisis and have implemented measures to hold on to their staff ... this is the way of peace, this is a way to ensure peace for their people and employees.

Not every business will be able to do the same simply given the difficult times we are in, but giving thanks for the peace of mind which comes when job security is able to be gifted.

Let us be peace ... let us demonstrate peace...

Have a blessed day.

TUESDAY, 24th MARCH 2020

Good Morning All

Cloudy skies here on the farm but a new day and another day of GIVING THANKS.

The Bible reading was from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 on page 1485 in the Wesley Bibles.

Our spirits were uplifted this morning by the singing that could be heard as we returned to our place of worship the Chapel. A comment was made 'We've missed being in chapel.' Since the decision was made around social distancing we moved worship to the Rec Centre. It was never going to be the same as being together in the chapel.

This morning 47 students and Staff gathered to GIVE THANKS for a final time together before our country goes into lockdown.

The phrase these are 'unprecedented times' has been the catch cry for the times we are experiencing here at home and abroad. In such times what will keep us steadfast and resolute in our collective effort to ride this 'unprecedented time' out?

As a nation we are a resilient and strong people, we know what hardship is and we adapt accordingly looking out for and caring for the most vulnerable. We must together do what needs to be done in the hope that this lockdown will help to keep the community transmission of COVID at bay for as long as is possible and save lives. This is our prayer ... this is our hope.

To all our family and friends here at home and throughout the world our prayer is that we will all be kept safe and remain safe.

v16 Rejoice always,

v17 pray continually,

v18 GIVE THANKS in all circumstances for this is God's will for us in Christ Jesus.

When all else may seem 'unprecedented' what is constant and consistent in and outside of unprecedented times is our faith and belief in the goodness of God and the goodness of humanity. We need to trust this goodness now more than ever.

We continue to pray for our world, we continue to pray for our country and people, our families and loved ones. God is with us – Immanuel.

Have a blessed day, remain safe everyone until we all return we pray when we can.

WEDNESDAY, 25th MARCH 2020

There was no Chapel message today.

