

CHAPEL MESSAGES FOR THE WEEK ENDING 28th FEBRUARY 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, 24th FEBRUARY 2020

Good Morning All

Welcome to Week 5. It's a beautiful day here on the Farm. God is good.

REMINDER tomorrow is Shroves Pancake Tuesday and we will observe this tradition with our Inter-House Pancake Race.

Chapel will be in the Quad. Each House is to organise their teams of 5 - 1 Girl, 1 Jnr, Int and Senior Boy, 1 Staff.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Wesley Boys who are representing in Tag

Cace Kingi	Cook Islands U18 tag team
Kauri Makiha	Cook Islands U16 tag team
Romatt Wichman-Rairoa	Cook Islands U18 tag team as well as NZ U18 Tag.

CONGRATULATIONS to Winstone House who took out Athletics Day. Awesome!

The Winstone Cup points to date are as follows:

Winstone	300
Stanton	300
Simmonds	200
School	200

We come to the end of our overall theme 'OUR WHY' this week with the focus on our School Prayer.

The Bible reading was from Philippians 4:4-9 on page 1468 in the Wesley Bible.

Prayer speaks to our relationship with God and the knowing that unconditional love is God's mandate.

God loves simply because God loves. This is who God is ... this is what God does.

When we know and believe this, then we come to God in confidence and faith that God will front up.

When we know and believe this, then we come to God in joy that God can front up.

When we know and believe this, then we come to God with the expectation that God is going to front up.

Prayer calls us to pray for one another, to pray with faith, to pray with worship and reverence.

When we pray there is a connection of relationship that can never be missing in action.

While we may personally feel at times lost and disconnected, God's connection with us is solid, unbreakable, never MIA. God will, God can, God is going to front up.

Our School Prayer is equally simple in its request ... to do all the good, in all the places, at all the times, to all people every day.

Simple enough no mixed messages ... do good be good! Yet it's very simplicity belies, our everyday actions. There is nothing simple or easy or straightforward or effortless about being 'good' all day long. It's hard work! A prayerful connection will help to keep a prayerful relationship with the One who simply ... loves. No mixed messages ... God loves because God loves! God is good ... all the time! We are good ...

Have a blessed day.

TUESDAY, 25th FEBRUARY 2020

Good Afternoon All

Blue skies, sun is shining we're giving thanks for the start to the new day!

Our prayerful thoughts for Year 10 student Tongia Laiseni and his family, their Grandfather has passed away.

Our prayerful thoughts for Yr 11 student Kenneth Samuel whose mother is seriously unwell in hospital.

Our prayerful thoughts for Mrs Raos and her family at this time.

With Transfiguration Sunday last week our theme for the day was 'Changes.' Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus' identity is for a momentary glimpse revealed and affirmed by God 'This is my Son whom I love, with Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him.' We are left in no doubt as to who Jesus is and His relationship to God.

The disciple Peter was blown away by the 'mountain top' experience of seeing Jesus 'change' and wanted to capture the moment, hold on for as long as. What Peter failed to see was that the 'moment' was actually a glimpse of the eternal ... Jesus is and was and will always be the Son of God and because of who Jesus is, will always be with us.

When we understand this profound truth our only response can be one of thanksgiving. Giving thanks for this truth and the truth that while the 'mountain top moment' was momentary, the truth of who Jesus is eternal, never ending, infinite.

Unlike Peter, the truth causes us to move on with what we have learnt from the experience.

'Mountain top' experiences change us in the most deepest of ways, can overwhelm us, be insightful and intense.

It's what we do when we come down from the 'mountain top' that will determine what 'change' has occurred in us and how it will impact on us and on others from that moment onward.

Change is in the air as the weather seems too to be changing ... a little cooler at night ... a little darker in the mornings.

We are moving on too as the Christian calendar nudges us into the Season of Lent a time of inward reflection and contemplation.

Today we celebrated Shrove 'pancake' Tuesday with the annual Inter-House Pancake Race around the Quad for staff and students.

A fun time was had for all though some competing need to be reminded what a 'walking' race actually means.

The word 'shrove' from the English word shrive means to obtain absolution/forgiveness by Confession and doing penance/some kind of making amends. Thus Shrove Tuesday was named after the custom of Christians to be "shriven" before the start of Lent.

A way of penance was fasting and so people would use up all their cooking ingredients by making food like pancakes to make it easier to fast.

So the tradition is that a woman one Sunday was making pancakes and she heard the church bells ringing and so not wanting to be late made her way to church running with her fry pan and pancakes as she went.

Changes ... profound truth ... identity ... eternity ... personal reflection ... contemplation ... insight ... intensity ... forgiveness ... are all seasonal words of the Lenten Season that nudge and prod, shove and jolt us in a 'mountain top' way to make every day an opportunity to make a change, to help bring about change ... to make a difference that will be captured for a long time to come.

Have a blessed day.

WEDNESDAY, 26th FEBRUARY 2020

Good Morning All

A beautiful morning to start the day. Giving thanks.

Our prayerful thoughts for Mrs Miriam Chainey HOD Art who is un well and in hospital.

Today is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of Lent ... the Lenten Season which lasts six weeks and is associated with the colour purple. Many Christian churches will be adorned in purple throughout Lent.

The 'ash' comes from the burning of Easter crosses from the previous Easter and then used by some to make the sign of the cross on people's foreheads at Ash Wednesday services.

These traditions/ celebrations are part of our Christian history ... we cannot know where are going if we do not know where we have come from, they explain why as part of our faith we observe these significant events.

We continue with our Chapel theme of OUR WHY focussing on Our School Prayer.

The Bible reading was from Proverbs 3:1-10 on page 778 in the Wesley Bibles.

Lent is a time of personal self-reflection as we walk with Jesus to the Cross.

It is a time when people will fast, will pray, will do good deeds, will be penitent sorry about deeds done not so good.

I told students I try to fast ... giving up sex, chocolate and drinking coke. Some of their faces were so funny ... 'Did Rev really say she gives up sex?' One Year 9 said 'Rev that was too much information.'

I continued by saying that I struggle the most for the six week period with giving up coke. The Year 9 said he would pray for me.

Some people rather than 'giving up' something might decide to 'take up' something like not miss any rugby trainings, for six weeks make sure to be in bed by 10pm every day, for six weeks call home every week and tell Mum you love her, for six weeks do a good deed every day. Whether we are 'giving up or taking up' we are having to reflect on the things we do with our time and energies, what we do for ourselves and what we do for others. We may be surprised.

Our School Prayer requires of us the following ...

And what does the Lord require of us ... to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God.

When as the School Prayer continues ...

God help me to Do all the good I can

By all the means I can

In all the ways I can

At all the times I can
To all the people I can
As long as I ever can ...

we are 'taking up' the call not just for Lent but every day to do good, the requirement is made all the more real.

Our 'giving up or taking up' is an everyday call up that we might in some way recall Jesus sacrifice for us. However we decide to observe this Lenten Season, it cannot change the significant event of the Cross but it might wrought an inner change causing us to take up the Cross with Christ!

Have a blessed day.

THURSDAY, 27th FEBRUARY 2020

There was no Chapel message today.

FRIDAY, 28th JANUARY 2020

Good Morning All

TGIF! An awesome summer's start to the day on the Farm. Giving thanks.

Our thoughtful prayers continue for Mrs Chainey HOD Art who is unwell.

Our thoughtful prayers for Senior Prefect Viliami Ngaluafe who is in hospital.

We bring to a close our five week chapel theme 'OUR WHY' the focus this week being on our School Prayer.

The Bible reading was the School Prayer which begins with the call from the Prophet Micah 6:8

And what does the Lord require of each of us ... to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God.

John Wesley practiced what he preached and preached what he practiced.

He wanted people to share in the joy he knew from knowing Jesus Christ.

He was banned from preaching in the Anglican Church because he challenged them about their lack of care for the marginalised, the poor, the sick, the lonely, the imprisoned. So the Methodist movement was born out of Wesley's compassion for the every day person many of whom were uneducated and illiterate. Wesley knew what it was to know that Jesus cared for and loved him and Wesley's desire to share that with others caused a change in England that was revolutionary in terms of social change.

His message was a 'simple truth for a simple people' knowing that people could neither read or write.

Through constant prayer, the reading of the Bible and doing good deeds, meeting people's practical needs they came to see a glimpse of this man Jesus whom John Wesley believed was a man of the people.

Our hearts are the places where change begins and when we have been heart touched, we become heartfelt people wanting to share the heartfelt love of Christ with everyone.

Lent is a time heralding change ... in the seasons, in the Church, in our lives as we 'TAKE UP' the Cross with Christ.

We cannot but be touched by the love of God for us in Jesus Christ. No greater love than this ...

Have a blessed day and weekend.