

In the Barn!

Barneys Newsletter



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Would You Give a Fork?

proud of the night and what I had done. By all appearances the night was a huge success, but I remember it for a massive failure.

After making sure that everyone else was fed and seated I got my

We have been given so much in Christ, but what amazes me is how quickly I can turn away for so little.

One of the first ministry events I ever ran was a missionary night at Harrington Park. I put together the team, worked out what needed be done. Had the night catered by church members. We decorated the room and then introduced the missionaries - what they were planning on doing and where they were going. They spoke - we ate, it was awesome. Everyone was very

by Adam Richards

own food. After getting my plate of food we were supposed to grab our cutlery. As I reached the cutlery point there was only one fork left. Behind me in the line was a little old lady, I remember her name. And looking at the fork, knowing it was only her and I left, I grabbed the fork. I didn't care, I was in the line first. I had done so much for everyone to make the night a success - I deserved to eat. But as soon as I grabbed it, I realised what I'd done. It would have been

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balance the plate on one knee and hold the cup and saucer in one hand. Then I thought what if she has a very nice cake which requires a little cake fork to eat it. Where would I put the cup and saucer, balance on one knee or put in on the floor where I could easily bump it over and spill the contents on the magnificent carpet. By now I was feeling quite nervous. She returned with some home made cookies much to my relief. I ate them as quickly as I could without appearing rude and drank the cup of tea refusing a second cup so I could hand back this exquisite crockery as soon as possible.

I told this woman the Rector had asked me to call on her. She said she had not seen the Rector since he took her husband's funeral which was just over a year ago. She and her husband had planed a world tour traveling to many countries but a month before the husband retired he died of a heart attack. Their plans were shattered and she was not very happy with God. I tried to focus on God and Jesus Christ but she was not interested and asked me questions about myself. Then she asked, "how am I getting on with the Rector". I thought be careful this may be a loaded question. I told her quite well and he was a great help to me being at the beginning of my ministry. As I left she thanked me for coming and

Home Visits

although she said she had given up on God I was quite welcome to call again. As I shut the front gate behind me I was conscious of how nervous I had been. Then I realized this is how some people behave when having a visitor. They are ushered into the best room of the house and the best crockery is used. I will be better prepared if this situation occurs again.

The next morning I visited a smaller weather board house. I had visited this home before as it was the very first home I visited when I began my time in Orange. This woman's husband when driving home from work on Christmas

Eve and only two blocks from his home had another vehicle ram into him throwing him out of his car on to the road. There were no seat belts in those days. He was taken to the Orange base Hospital. In the early hours of Christmas Day he died of his head injuries leaving a wife and a daughter and son both at high School.

I was welcomed and invited into the kitchen and as I followed her down the hall she asked if I would like a cup of tea and did I mind having a mug. With the thoughts of the previous afternoon flashing through my mind I said, "I would love to have a mug, thank you"

She was engulfed in her grief and angry and annoyed with God to allow this to happen. Where was there any future without her husband and her children not having a father. The what "ifs"

came out. If only he had left work a minute earlier or later he would be still here. The question, why is life so unfair plagued her mind. In my attempts to focus on Christ and what He did seemed to be beyond her mental state. Further visits did not help her.

When we hear of stories like this it is always nice to read how later people came to faith in Christ as they lived out their lives. This was not the case with these two ladies. Well not in the two years I was in Orange as the Bishop then transferred me to Dubbo for my second Curacy.

We have to accept that everything cannot always be neatly tied up in a satisfactory ending to a home visit. It is a reminder we are in partnership with the Holy Spirit and as Paul says in 1Cor. 3 v.6. I planted, Apollos watered and God gave the growth. So when a home visit does not turn out as we had hoped don't be disappointed. We may have planted a seed, or watered what was already there. We leave it in God's hands to accomplish what he wants in His time.

When thinking of homes Adam reminded us in a previous article our homes are only temporary and our real home is in Eternity. Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you. In my Father's house are many rooms. This is certainly something in which to look forward and I am sure there will not be in that room a cabinet with expensive bone china crockery.

Every Blessing, John Mason.

**by John
Mason**

Come with me on two home visits I made in my first year as a Deacon in the Parish of Holy Trinity Orange having completed my three years at Morpeth Theological Collage. The year was 1963.

The house was a substantial brick building and when the door opened I was welcomed and ushered inside by a lady perhaps in her early sixties. I could see she was quiet well off. Come into the lounge room she told me. I thought not the lounge room it seems so formal. There was a lovely lounge and very nice wall to wall carpet. She said she would put the heater on as the room was quite cold.

She offered me a cup of tea which I accepted and then she went to the cabinet in the lounge room. I thought not that cabinet where I had noticed some beautiful bone china crockery. Out came the cups saucers and plates and she went to the kitchen. I thought now be careful with this crockery. I could

better by far to eat with my hands than to take that fork!

Dave's talk about persevering in the Christian life pointed us to arduous nature of the Christian marathon. The Christian life is one lived making a series of small choices, where we choose to be Christ-like everyday though few will ever see it. And we can think is it worth it - what does it matter?

"And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down

at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

We have been given so much in Christ, but what amazes me is how quickly I can turn away for so little. A little later in Hebrews the writer brings up Esau, who sold the promises of God for a bowl of lentil stew. And we can laugh and think - 'What a fool! to give up so much for so little.' I did it that night for a fork! I just didn't care.

Let's set our goal on heaven - fixing our eyes on Jesus. Constantly putting God and other people first can feel tiresome and wearisome - but it is worth it. So let us be resolved to love as Christ did and when asked - hand over the cutlery!

COVID Memes

Me walking back into McDonald's after they forgot my napkins that I planned on using as toilet paper



Family devastated when pet chews up life savings



Find-A-Word

Afternoon	Eat	Home	Stew
Amazed	Engulf	Kitchen	Substantial
Apollos	Esau	Marathon	Tiresome
Choice	Eternity	Planted	Usher
Christmas	Feeling	Promises	Weather
Disappoint	Hebrews	Situation	Faith

E Q S H P J D D E T N A L P V
M V U E N G U L F R E H S U P
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S F S K I T C H E N J T S O P
E E T E R N I T Y G B O O J C
R E A A F G N O I T A U T I S
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E W E A T H E R F A I T H U W
W K S P T I A A P O L L O S Z
R I V A N O O N R E T F A D Z
D A E S Q P R O M I S E S T R

PRAYER POINTS



- Pray that we will persevere throughout the Christian life. Pray that as we think about our choices that they will focus on Christ,
- Pray for the Year 12 HSC kids. Pray as they prepare to sit trail and end of year exams that they will have peace of mind and perseverance as they prepare.