



UNEXPECTEDLY REMEMBERED

By Ian Menzies

As a former teacher, one genuine pleasure I enjoy is meeting up again from time to time with former pupils. On one such occasion, having passed the usual pleasantries and ascertaining what life path my ex-student had taken, he paused and launched into an unexpected memory. "You know," he began tentatively, "I remember one lesson when you were explaining something to the class and my pen rolled off the front of my desk. You picked it up for me while still talking and just carried on with the lesson." I was somewhat taken aback

by this seemingly too-trivial-to-note event, and wondered to myself why on earth that, of all things, may have stuck with him. "What a strange thing to remember!" I laughingly responded. "You just noticed," he said shyly. Further explanations were lost to male communication awkwardness on both sides. It was good, however, to be reminded that even tiny recognitions and affirmations can be more significant than we may realise.

Reflection:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." Matthew 13: 31-32