**Building Cathedrals**

By Ian Menzies

I love the old story of the visitor to a quarry asking the workers there “*What are you doing?*” *“Cutting stone,”* said the first. *“Earning a living,*” said the second. *“Building a cathedral!”* said the third.

Sometimes it’s important to take a moment to keep your eye on the bigger picture. Too often we focus in on the day-to-day minutiae, and life becomes humdrum and routine.

Our challenge is to consider the person we’d like ourselves to be, indeed that God would want us to be, and to continually endeavour to rise to that standard. Each of us is still a work-in- progress on our lives, I just hope my focus isn’t narrowed to cutting stone or earning a living, rather to building my cathedral to be the best it can be.

*Reflection:*

*Do your best to present yourself to God.*

2 Timothy 2:15a

**Hand Written Letters**

By Bill Pugh

When did you last receive such a personal letter?

Style you recognise, carefully written and placed in a personal envelope and delivered to you by the postie? A thrill
to find it in your letter box. These days communication is impersonal, via emails or text messages. In offices it is much easier to send an electronic message to a colleague two desks away, rather than get up and have a conversation. In our church life where is the time for a pastoral chat and a one to one sharing of our faith?

All to our spiritual loss. Mums and dads work full time. Weekends are taken up with sport. Our family cars are taxis. We are rarely still and together in one place, it is a mad world. In his Second Letter, John is encouraging a Christian community. “I *would write more, but somehow I find it hard to put it down on paper. I hope to come and see you personally, and we will have a long talk together. And how we shall enjoy that!*” (2 John, 12, Phillips translation).

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*Reflection:*

*Lord, we are your family in a mad rushing world, please show us the time and space where we hear you say “PEACE BE STILL! “ And we can sit down and talk to each other and share our faith experience. BE STILL FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE LORDTHE HOLY ONE IS HERE.*

**Tired**By Bill Pugh

Lots of people seem tired in this mad rushing society. Mothers are worn out. Kids are too tired to help with the dishes or do homework, although this is a perennial excuse. Much tiredness is genuine. But often it is an excuse for putting off what ought to be done. It is a problem in many areas of our Christian witness.

Apart from Sunday services there are many activities that contribute to our Christian responsibilities – for example, working bees, servicing morning tea, readers for Sunday, bible study and choir members. Are we really too busy and too tired to make a special effort?

We put off “*GOD DUTIES*” with all kinds of excuses. A weariness of commitment and will. Someone else will do it. God things are not high on our list of priorities. “*With one accord we begin to make
our excuse*” is a well-known scriptural instruction.

Paul is well aware of this problem in the life of the Galatian Christians. So concerned is he that he writes this: “*Look these huge letters I am making in writing these words to you with my own hand!*”(Galatians 6:11). His message is crystal clear. “let us not grow tired of doing good, for, unless we throw in our hand, the ultimate harvest is assured!” (Galatians 6:9)

*Reflection:*

*“So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith” (Galatians 6:10).*

*So today, maybe have more than a glance at the Church noticeboard?*

**Let him eat cake**By Ian Menzies

The Op Shop volunteer had chalked up 10 years of service, so several jaunty signs acknowledging his efforts were placed around the store. They may have stayed up a little too long, but that oversight proved fortunate. Some weeks later a customer observed one, then headed off further up the street to purchase a small celebratory cake, before returning with instructions to pass it on to the dedicated volunteer, whom she had never met. Her thoughtfulness so generously expressed through her random act of kindness left much surprised happiness in its wake.

*Reflection:*

*Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them round your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.*

Proverbs 3:3