



Memories of Rainbow

By Joan Addinsall

The Royal Auto Magazine of June-July 2019 carried an article about the Oasis Arts and Community hub which has been set up in the original Rainbow Primary School. Memories came flooding back from my childhood days as a Parsonage daughter! My father was the Methodist Minister there from April 1938 to April 1942. April was not a good time to move to a new school, when friendships had been made from the beginning of the school year. How thankful I was that my classmates in Year 3 were ready to make me welcome and to share a desk with me. And I remember that class gathering at the 'handsome old school hand-hewn from local sandstone in 1905 in February 1942 scampering down the sandy lane between the Primary and Secondary Schools to begin Year 7.

I remembered too one day when the Fire Brigade bell was tolled to bring

the community together to go out and search for the children of the new bank manager who, as they explained when found, had gone in search of the gold at the foot of the rainbow.

How thankful I was for the care the congregation showed to the people at the Parsonage. Eggs and dairy butter were hand delivered at much better prices than at the general store each Friday, to say nothing of the fruit and vegetable that accompanied these items for free. I shall never forget one family of four daughters much older than me who, on most Fridays, loaned me books- the Billabong and the Anne of Green Gables series.

How thankful I am to have lived in this place as a child where the commandment given to us by Jesus. *"This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you"* (John 15:12), was so fully demonstrated.

Bible Study at Home

By Bill Pugh



Sometimes it is not possible to belong to a group. Study at home is really worthwhile. You need to have access to resources. If you do not have help from Google these suggestions are worthwhile.

My *Cruden's Concordance* lists 225,000 [1930 Revised] references to words and names in the Old and New Testaments. Alexander Cruden, a bible student, published his first edition in 1736.

Also helpful is a *Smith's Bible Dictionary*. An old commentary such as Peakes

[*Peake's Commentary on the Bible*] is also special. Maybe William Barclay's Commentaries found in a late minister's collection, or a purchase from a Christian bookshop. All helpful.

You can also phone a fellow student, or talk to your minister.

Every study brings some new insight for our Christian education and spiritual growth. The Psalmist well says, "[*Your Word O Lord*] *Your word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path*".

Reflection:

A verse from an old hymn is a special prayer:

*Holy Spirit shine thou on the book we read
Gild its holy pages with the light we need.
[William H. Parker, 1880.]*



Speak or Listen?

By Geoff Serpell

We often are unsure of finding the right words to say.

As Christians we are bound to follow our Lord's command to love one another. It follows that we will love and care for our family, friends and neighbours and even some who may be our enemies. How do we then speak to encourage, find something to praise and leave a positive word before concluding a conversation.

To enable us to find suitable comforting words, we need to ask God in prayer, to give us the words to say, providing His wisdom and power instead of just our own.

The words when appropriate: "I love you" speak volumes.

In some circumstances, staying silent is for the best; just standing alongside one in grief is something my grandfather taught me. So, this allows us to listen to what the other person is saying to us.

The right words can be comforting and uplifting to the person we care for. We can listen attentively with our ears and our hearts.

For the world to ultimately be a better place than when we came along, everyone needs to stay kind and aim to encourage others to be kind and caring for each other.

With 25 million of us in Australia, one act of kindness by each other every day equals 9 billion acts of kindness a year.

Reflection:

God gave Isaiah an instructive tongue to know which words sustained the weary. He was convinced it was the Lord who woke his ear to listen like one being taught. [Isaiah 50:4]



Ministry of Transport

By Bill Pugh

Jesus and his disciples walked the dusty roads of Palestine to preach, teach and heal. Paul and the Apostles travelled on many roads and even by sea to proclaim the Resurrection.

When I was ministering in Fiji I travelled by bus on Sundays. Lay preachers walked mile after mile to conduct services. In country ministry we travelled in our van and often stayed the night by a lake or camped by a Sunday School hall because it was too late, and too far to drive home.

Frontier Services provide ministry to the Outback of our 'wide brown land', padres travelling in vehicles set up to camp outside station homesteads or in the bush.

Reflection:

We should follow the words of Jesus in Luke 10:1-17: "You and I are called to follow in those footsteps, to be vehicles of ministry in our daily lives".

Pray for the ministry outreach of Frontier Services.

For Sunday worship I suggest TIS: 571 to close the worship, "Forth in your name, O Lord, I go..."

A few as trained pilots fly themselves to stations to bring ministry to families far distant from a local Church and conduct weddings, baptisms, and provide pastoral care to isolated properties.

My grandfather, in his early days as an Anglican vicar, travelled around Rokewood and beyond in a horse and jinker.

In many vehicles, and by many means, Christians witness to the command of Jesus to go into the world and preach the Gospel. And wherever you and I are each day – at home, on a walk with the dog, in the street, or playing sport – we are not alone. The Holy Spirit strengthens us all the way.