



# DISCIPLINE

By Bill Pugh

How do you discipline?

In my army experience, discipline was enforced by various means. Extra cook house duties or latrine cleaning were popular means.

Earning respect is a way forward. Harsh discipline leads to resentment and rejection. We have young people today from various backgrounds, with no concept of community beliefs and values. Many come from communities where force is the way to achieve ends.

Gangs tackle authority. There is open hostility to law enforcement.

Resentments grow. Violence results. Authority figures are the enemy. Prisons are populated by social outcasts.

Maybe we need a new kind of National Service, where all young people, boys and girls, spend some time in serving the community. Where a disciplined way of life together gives reason to be proud of our way of life. And worthwhile behaviour achieves positive results. To reject violence and build community. The disciplines of self-respect instead of being at war with authority.

## Reflection:

*There is a very disturbing injunction Jesus gave to his followers. In the Sermon on the Mount, as recorded in the Gospels, these words occur, "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth". Whoever heard of a meek person inheriting anything? The answer lies in attitude: true meekness is not spineless. It is exhibiting the power of controlled strength, behaviour and self-control. A truly meek person does not achieve his ends by lording it over others by force. He earns it by respect. Such a person has no need to rely on force. His authority is an inherent attitude, belief and value born of experience.*