

# A CRAFTSMAN'S PRESENT

By Bill Pugh



It is a privilege to be a school chaplain. A kind of fluid ministry to succeeding students, staff and parents. If you can teach another subject that is a bonus. Involvement in sport, activities and camps, help to get closer and away from the 'holy image'. Staff appreciate it too.

Over the years you get to know individual students pretty well. Peter was good with his hands, shaping pieces of wood. He was rather surprised to know that, Jesus, the Son of God, could use his hands as a carpenter, getting them dirty.

We talked about Jesus' hands,

healing, blessing and praying hands. He took children into his arms. Soon there were painful nails in his hands.

At the end of Term 3 Peter gave me a present, some kind of object, carefully wrapped in Christmas paper. A smiling thankyou from me, and a promise to leave it under the tree, until Christmas morning. It was my turn to open my gifts. I came to Peter's and unwrapped it, carefully. Inside was a simple wooden cross, beautifully carved, the work of a craftsman. I thought about that for some time, still do.

## Reflection:

*How better to express the Gospel. Gift and Grace all carefully wrapped in the one package, heaven sent. Theologians try to explain it and we to comprehend. Peter used his hands to illustrate what words find so difficult. Not always easy to live up to the role of chaplain. You can't add up the results, nor should you. But sometimes it has a surprising reward, which makes it all worthwhile.*

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