

MY PEACE I GIVE TO YOU

By Geoff Sherpell

What kind of peace you may well ask? David Beswick, a retired Uniting Church Minister, says that it is a gift of wholeness, being made well, reconciled, saved, and knowing God. Peace and wholeness are brought together in the healing miracles of Jesus illustrated liberally throughout the four gospels.

When people talk about what they are most looking for in life, peace features high on the list. We seek peace and tranquillity from the noise of traffic, inner peace when we are in chaos, world peace when, for example, we are confronted with Russia trying to take over Ukraine in the most devastating manner, while just a bit of peace and quiet after a day's work is much sought after. Back in the 60s and 70s, when I was employed by Prince Henry's Hospital in St Kilda Road, I attended a businesspersons' lunchtime church service at Scots' church in Collins Street.

I do not remember any words said except most times when I was jumping back onto the tram with renewed energy, to get back to work, were the peaceful words regularly said by the Minister, Rev Gordon Powell: "Let go and let God"!

I have a little book called "*Prayers of Peace*": Let me share a few with you.

"In the practice of daily prayer, we can find the blessing of God's peace."

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

Matthew 5:9

"Where there is peace, God is." George Herbert

We should realise that He accepts us and surrounds us with His love. It's when we come to terms with ourselves, and offer what we are to God, that the seed of "peace" is established.

Reflection:

"Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

John 14:27

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