

# A Lesson in Selflessness

By Bill Pugh

What a picture of the Early Church in Acts 2. The believers were together, everything was held in common. Possessions were sold and the money given to those in need. Imagine that today. Not possible, since our ministry is to all, and it is our responsibility as Christians to pay tax and share in our duty as citizens, belonging to a community. Christians are called to be stewards of time, talent and energy, and to give generously to all in need. It's the regularity of giving that is the problem.

We are moved to support worthy causes, bushfire, flood and tsunami victims, cancer appeals, and people who undertake great challenges to highlight support for research into terrible diseases. But regular giving is not on the minds of many. We get on with our usual lifestyle. What are the pronouns which are most used in family conversation? Children wait excitedly for birthdays, parties and Christmas. And these are wonderful times for all of us. God wants all of us to celebrate life. Do the children say thank you and share? Or is the

conversation dominated by I, Me and Mine.

Somehow we need to change our focus, beginning with Christian education in our homes, and our Church life. Matthew 25 gives a picture of the Last Judgment. The Lord's invitation to the Kingdom comes to the specially blessed of his Father, who have given much to Him, by being kind, giving drink to the thirsty, food and clothes to the poor and visited the sick and the prisoners. "Lord, when did we see you like that?" they asked with surprise. "What you did for the least of these you did it for me," he replied. Generosity was blessed with the greatest gift, to inherit the Kingdom prepared for them long ago.

On a privileged visit to a small Island in Fiji, we discovered two opportunities to give at collection time at a small village Church, one for local needs, and one for the poor and unemployed, and there were plenty of the latter.

Why should we give? Because God gave and always gives.

## Reflection:

*I, Me, Mine. God put a stroke through the I and made it a Cross. Why? See John: 3, 16.*