



Pastor Connect

30 September, 2009

Rejoicing in the ordinary

Earlier in the week I received the following short story via email and I thought I would share it with you.

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. 'I've gone for 30 years now,' he wrote, 'and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all!

This started a real controversy in the 'Letters to the Editor' column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

'I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this... They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!

This story really struck me, not least because of that one man having a wife who cooked so many meals for him! But what also struck me when thinking about Church was that yes, it is difficult to remember what has happened in the past. I remember some of my sermons, but not all of them! I remember some special services very well, but not every Sunday service, and some not at all. Now does that mean that they weren't worth having? Or that I shouldn't have taken time writing them? Or that everyone involved in them wasted their time?

Of course not!

In sound engineering, the rule when adding effects to a voice or instrument is that it shouldn't be noticed until it's not present anymore. Sometimes I think Church is a bit like this for us. We may not remember each and every service, song and sermon, but take it away and we really would notice just how much Church means to us. Here's something to think about. How would you feel if suddenly there was a law saying that Churches couldn't operate and run services? Would you miss Church then? I think we can really lose sight of just how precious our 'ordinary' weekly services are when there are so many around the world who would be so thankful and praising God for the chance to just once worship openly as we do at MCC Sydney.

A Pastor said to me once, when I asked him if some of my services were too 'ordinary'. Did I need to make each week more amazing and different to the last? He replied; "Compare it to food. You eat dinner each night and normally it is fairly routine. Occasionally you go out and have a special

meal. But it is that everyday food that gets you through the week and that makes a special meal special".

Our weekly Church service is our spiritual food and drink that helps us to get through the week and to get through life! And then from time to time we do something special that makes us appreciate all the more just how much we value the church and our brothers and sisters in Christ that we worship and be in community with.

I find that so often in a service I will get something out of it that I never would have expected. And I hear people telling me that all the time. So maybe 'ordinary' services aren't that ordinary at all! Making church, community worship and prayer a habit really can be life changing, one Sunday at a time.

Blessings

Rev Gavin Ward

Announcements:

Sleaze Ball

Thankyou to all who have put their name down to work on the cloak room. You will need to complete an online induction or you will not be permitted entry to the party. It can be completed at <http://www.playbillvenues.com/default.asp?PageID=39>. Once completed, forward a copy of the proof of completion to Jane.Rowe@mardigras.org.au. Tickets will be available for collection at the Church on Friday 2nd October from 6-9pm and on Saturday morning 3rd October from 9-11am. You will need to collect these before the party on the Saturday night.

Annual General Meeting

The MCC Sydney AGM will be held on 20th November at 7pm in the worship space. Those members interested in board positions please contact the office for more information. All current and newly elected board members will be required to attend a governance training session the following Saturday, 28th November from 9am to 4pm.

Services This Week

10am Service - Traditional

All are welcome at our 10am traditional service.

6:30pm Service - Crave

All are welcome at our Contemporary service. This week the focus will be on worship.

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