

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

People cry out for water to drink. Exodus 17:3-7
God's love poured out. Romans 5:1-2,5-8
Jesus is the wellspring of life. John 4:5-42

Next week:

Healing of a blind man.
1 Sm 16:1,6-7,10-13;
Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

In a nutshell

In today's Gospel the Samaritan woman at the well is shocked that Jesus would even speak with her, a woman. Jesus is reaching beyond the boundaries of his culture. The woman is curious about him; she asks for living water. The water Jesus offers is the new life, today and eternally, that comes through faith in him.



Wellsprings

A year ago I was promoted within the company to a position as office manager in a new department. In my new job I was determined to work at creating a climate of positivity and enthusiasm. Having worked in other sections of the company I was convinced that negativity, bitching and complaining form a death sentence for productivity. Besides, a positive attitude is integral to my Christian beliefs, and what good are beliefs if they don't translate into practice?

The first thing I did was recruit a colleague to help me work at this goal. For the past year the two of us have never missed an opportunity to tell someone that they've done a good job or to encourage their initiative. Even in a crisis there's always something positive to focus on; perhaps just the fact that a lesson has been learned. We try not to take people's basic goodness for granted. When a relationship with a staff member does become strained, we make a point of talking things through rather than letting

wounds fester by 'no talkies'. And we just won't tolerate negative gossip about another person in the company.

One year later, I am happy to report that our efforts are reaping results. Sure, things aren't perfect, but there is an underlying sense of contentment in our department. Positivity breeds positivity. People outside our department have started to notice and comment. A colleague said to me the other day, 'It's alright for you, you've got a switched on staff'. In fact, my staff is no more talented than his. One of the secretaries said a friend of hers on the first floor was hoping to transfer to our floor because (quote) 'Everyone knows it's a "happening" place.' Whether or not such rumours are true, I don't mind; they all add to the positive momentum! (BG)

How can you be a prophet of hope in your workplace?

Wellsprings of love

At times I find myself wondering whether all the Church programs and meetings around the place really get to the core of people's lives. I was heartened, therefore, to see a couple who had done a Catholic marriage enrichment program two years ago walking hand in hand out of the church last Sunday. They were in their fifties but looked at each other like young newly weds. I was happy to think that the Church had offered something so central and sustaining to this couple's number one life commitment. (Karen)



The eulogy

I was at the funeral of a friend's mother. I had known her mother only briefly, but by the end of the celebration I was convinced that, in her own quiet way, she had been a living saint. People spoke of her goodness and compassion, her commitment to her husband, children and grandchildren, her kindness to neighbours and her faithfulness to parish. Her son who gave the eulogy said that his mother had one major goal in life and that was to be a strong and faithful Catholic. (I was mentally skimming my own list of goals - mostly professional - which seemed rather insignificant by comparison.) This woman knew life's greatest prize and had her eyes set on it, all the way to eternal life. (KS)

Think...Talk

What thoughts/questions do you have about the gift of eternal life?

Pray...Act

Pray for a wellspring of faith and hope throughout your life.

Choose a mentor who models Christian hope.



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