

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

Israel: a consecrated nation. Exodus 19:2-6;
In Christ's death we have found life. Romans 5:6-11;
Rich harvest, scarce labourers. Matthew 9:36-10:8

Next week: Do not be afraid.

Jeremiah 20:10-13;
Romans 5:12-15;
Matthew 10:26-33

In a nutshell

As Christians we share in Jesus' healing work. Through his power and authority we are empowered to act boldly for the sake of the gospel, giving freely to others from the gifts God has freely given us. Lord, may we put our time, talents and resources at the service of your kingdom.



Wrap with Love

'We should not be overwhelmed by the enormity of suffering. We fear we can only do a little...but all the little efforts have made our success story...' (Sonia Gidley-King)

When we hear United Nations estimates that 10-20 million bone cold people in the world may die tonight, most of us cluck our tongues and change the TV channel.

Sonia Gidley-King, however, a widow who had recently faced her second bout of major surgery, asked herself what she could do to help. Compelled out of her arm chair and into her cupboards in search of left-over yarn, Sonia's desire to knit a blanket or wrap was already expanding into a bigger idea...

The result? 'Wrap with Love': a project of 'humans caring about other humans'. By mobilising people all over Australia to knit, crochet or weave a wrap (or to donate their left-over yarn), Sonia has devised a practical and communal way to express concern for people suffering the cold in war zones and natural disaster

areas. To give you some idea of its output, between 1992 and 1996, approximately 17,000 'Wraps with Love' have been shipped to bone cold people in countries like Rwanda, Romania, Ukraine, Croatia. Needy Australians are also recipients of the wraps.

Wrap with Love is not a registered charity. Supported by major aid agencies, all help is voluntary and all transport - local, country, interstate and overseas - is by 'no charge' offer. Said one contributor, the late Mrs Daisy Illiffe, "It gives you an inner satisfaction somehow to know that you are doing something for somebody else. I know I am only a small cog in a vast wheel but without those little cogs the wheel doesn't turn."

This week: Stop 'tsk-tsking' about the problem and be part of the solution!

Small but significant

I was a thousand kilometres away the day my sister unexpectedly went into hospital. I couldn't get a flight until the following morning and in that 'waiting' time I felt so helpless. Knowing that she was receiving a blood transfusion that day, and determined to do something (anything!) to help, I went to the blood bank and donated blood. (Jim)



church below the rooftops

Trust and Go!

My first year as a hospital pastoral worker has been quite a challenge. I enjoy the work, but there are also those moments when I wish I was somewhere else! Like the days I receive an urgent call to go see a distraught family in ward such and such. It can be scary heading into an emotionally charged scene with people you've never met before, confronted with life-and-death issues. I find myself questioning my own capabilities: What can I possibly say? What if I do the wrong thing? I can only draw on the power of the Almighty and trust that, as I enter that ward, it is not I alone who is acting but the One who sends me. (K.M.)

Think...Talk...Act

We are only too aware of human suffering in the world. We are not always aware of our power to respond. With friends, name examples of human suffering. Pool your knowledge and experience to also name ways we can be part of the solution. What action will you take today?



RealPeople offers faith reflections from the saints and prophets of everyday life.

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