

# realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



## In today's readings:

A restless night for Samuel. 1 Samuel 3:3-10,19  
The Holy Spirit's temple. 1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20  
Simple questions. Big consequences. John 1:35-42

## Next week:

Calling disciples.  
Jonah 3:1-5,10; 1 Corinthians  
7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

## In a nutshell

How does God call us? Through a lightning bolt? A burning bush? More often than not it is through a no-frills invitation from an ordinary person, perhaps somebody who is familiar to us. Today's Gospel urges us to be outreaching and responsive to the grace-filled events and people that fill our lives.



## A gospel chain reaction

It was one of those Sunday nights. I felt tired, depressed and very tempted to give Mass a miss. As I wrestled with my sense of commitment, my mother phoned. She too sounded tired and hassled. 'Can you pick me up on your way to Mass?' she asked flatly. 'Your father has just been called away on an urgent medical call and I don't have transport.'

'Yeah,' I grunted. Decision made. I was going to Mass.

As I pulled into my parent's driveway, both my mother and my sister came out the door. One look and I could tell my sister was in a bad mood, too. This was not shaping up to be a very happy night! We drove to the parish in silence, punctuated only by Mum's occasional attempts at conversation.

We walked into church, and immediately saw our friend, Tracey. It was always a delight to see Tracey, so I couldn't help the smile that popped out. But she was not alone - next to her were two friends

I would not have expected to see. Delight again. We sat next to them just as Mass began and already I could feel my spirits lifting. 'Okay, God,' I prayed. 'You got me here. Let's get into this...'

Through the prayers, the singing and silence of the Mass I felt something in my heart shift. By the time holy communion came I was experiencing a deep sense of gratitude for the gift of faith and the people God had placed in my life. And who should slip into our pew just then but my father. Having finished at the hospital he had headed straight for the church. By now there were seven of us in the pew and it didn't stop there. After Mass we kept running into more friends and acquaintances - old and new. More smiles, laughter and lots of caring. What started as a miserable evening ended up being a feast of faith and faith family. We were the last to leave the church that night. (Kerri)

## Gift of friendship

Kim and I are long-time friends. Over 20 years we have shared so much - our joys, our worries, our major life decisions, and of course all the mundane things. Underpinning our friendship has been our shared faith in God and our love for our Church family. She has been such a joy and strength in my life that it is amazing to think back on how we came to know each other: a mutual friend put us in touch. It was as simple as: 'You must meet a friend of mine...' (Chris)



## Come and see

Stopping to talk to my friend Tracey after Mass on Sunday night I was delighted to see with her a guy who I knew a little but had never associated with religion. 'Ben, I didn't know you were a Christian!', I said. 'I'm not a very good one,' he said sheepishly. 'I haven't been to church for years.' Tracey explained later that at ten minutes to six Ben had rung to invite her out for a drink. Internally she had hesitated. Then...

'I've already got plans...'

'Where are you going? The Cloey Hotel? There's a good band playing tonight.'

'Actually, I'm going to church.'

'You're kidding!'

'Seriously. Why don't you join me?' To her amazement he did!

## Think ... Talk

- What has friendship got to do with God, with the Church?
- Describe an incident when God reached out to you through a simple invitation from a friend.



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

A publication of  
The Story Source, © 1992-2002.

[www.TeresaPirola.net](http://www.TeresaPirola.net)