

GO TOWARDS OTHERS 2

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Going towards others is our theme for the month. One of the ways we can do this is by participating in Neighbours Day on the 30th March.

Neighbours Day Aotearoa (NDA) is about turning strangers into neighbours and streets into neighbourhoods. The Maori phrase for this is: Atawhaingia te Pa harakeke.

Atawhai means to show kindness to.

Pa harakeke: in Maori conception the flax bush represents the family.

The new leaf at its centre is the child, and leaves on the outside are older relatives.

So the phrase means 'showing kindness to the family'.

It's about thousands of kiwis taking the time to engage in small and local acts of neighbourliness to make New Zealand neighbourhoods safe, fun and friendly places to live.

www.neighboursday.org.nz for more ideas

Mark 6

⁷⁻⁸ Jesus called the Twelve to him, and sent them out in pairs. He gave them authority and power to deal with the evil opposition. He sent them off with these instructions:

⁸⁻⁹ "Don't think you need a lot of extra equipment for this. *You* are the equipment. No special appeals for funds. Keep it simple.

¹⁰ "And no luxury inns. Get a modest place and be content there until you leave.

¹¹ "If you're not welcomed, not listened to, quietly withdraw. Don't make a scene. Shrug your shoulders and be on your way."

¹²⁻¹³ Then they were on the road. They preached with joyful urgency that life can be radically different; right and left they sent the demons packing; they brought wellness to the sick, anointing their bodies, healing their spirits.

The Message

Romans 1: 16-17

I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in _____.

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

The Message

¹⁶⁻¹⁷ It's news I'm most proud to proclaim, this extraordinary Message of God's powerful plan to rescue everyone who trusts him, starting with Jews and then right on to everyone else! God's way of putting people right shows up in the acts of faith, confirming what Scripture has said all along: "The person in right standing before God by trusting him really lives."

Take one more step...towards God, to others, to myself in one or more of these areas.

Doing something...getting involved will lead to growth and relationship to God.

It will force you to take risks, upskill, make mistakes but it will bring you life.

Romans 1: 17

God's way of putting people right shows up in the acts of faith, confirming what Scripture has said all along: "The person in right standing before God by trusting him really lives."



The gospel passage read today from Mark is worth reading over and over again, questioning God...who do you send me to? How do you send me? What is the gospel, what is my story, what is the message?

It's not so much: do you want me to go?

The true nature of Christian life is going...following Jesus, leaving the safety of the home behind and getting on the road. It might be a bit like being pushed out of the nest! This is the way the baby eagle learns to fly. It's

pushed over the edge and the mother swoops down underneath it as it falls, until it learns to use its wings.

1. Mark 6: 7 -- We are sent out:

So Jesus called them to Himself and sent the disciples out in pairs.

- We can learn that it's only in relationship with Jesus that we go and we don't need to feel we are in it alone.
- We all go according to our strengths and personality and confidence and understanding of the Gospel. That too is a journey, but one we have to get on to learn.
- And we can borrow from the strengths and resources of others.



2. What do we take?

⁸ These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. ⁹ Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. ¹⁰ Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town.

What do you make of this?

What do we take with us in our context?

What are not to take with us?

- we have to be willing to **connect**
- **we** are the equipment
- The gospel: the **LOVE** of God
- **Our testimony** to that
- **Our love**...let my love abound, break my heart for what breaks yours. .
- Our willingness to **listen** and put myself in their shoes...**to not judge** but compromise to meet another's lack of belief and irrational thinking.
- **Faith** and belief in the Gospel

3. What's our message?

¹² They went out and preached that people should repent. ¹³ They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

Three-fold GOSPEL:

1. **Preach about turning to Jesus**
2. **Cast out demons...this gospel has power over evil**

3. Anoint the sick...and power over sickness and disease.

One of the things **we go with** is the good news about Jesus.
But do we know our story and can we share it?

I suspect that this is a point of upskilling and confidence. I don't find it easy.

It also requires that we win the right to share that with another.

We cannot do that with integrity unless we believe in the good news of Jesus and are not ashamed of it.

Practicing on one another builds confidence and hones what we actually believe.

What are the key things to communicate of the Gospel?

I want to share that with you today and challenge you to tell your story and how that intersects with the gospel.