

From the Principal - Mrs Katrina Valencia

CONNECTION

Genuine human connection has been the backbone of society for a millennia. Cultures have transferred their entire histories through storytelling, rituals, routines and human interaction. As a modern community, we have rushed headlong towards the new era of 'connection'. We can all reach out our hand and hold up our smart phone, tablets, or console and revel in its ability to connect us instantly with other people and cultures around the world.

Now, more than ever, we have an opportunity to connect with each other in mere seconds; Text messages, phone calls, email, Facebook, Discord, Tweets and Insta to name a few. Where once we would meet for coffee and cake, now we send a text or Facetime a friend. Brief, emoji-laden text messages have replaced phone calls, and three-line emails have replaced hand-written letters. Have we forgotten how to connect with each other on a human level? Experts warn that while millennials are the most 'connected' generation to have ever lived, a significant proportion of them report that they are plagued by loneliness.

Let's consider a few statistics... did you know that?

- It takes 90 minutes for the average person to respond in email, but it takes on average only 90 seconds for the average person to respond in text message.
- 80% of smart phone users check their phones within 15 minutes of waking up every day.
- More than 90% of all smart phone users say they have their phones within reach 24 hours a day 7 days a week — scarily this statistic was from 2007. These days, the experts' best estimate is much closer to 98% of smart phone users keep their phones within reach 24 hours a day.
- Psychologists report that constant checking is becoming a phenomena. It is leading to stress conditions, issues around self-worth, and disconnection within the community.

So how connected are you?

I want you to consider the following statements and see how many you can agree with:

1. I have written a handwritten card or letter to a close friend or relative in the last fortnight.
2. I have suggested and carried through with a 'face to face coffee catch up' with a friend or family member in the last week.
3. I have shared a meal at the table with my family, with no devices (including mum and dad's phone) in the last three days.
4. I have actually followed through on most of my 'we will have to catch up soon' texts and messages sent in the past month.

If you said yes to all of these statements, I applaud you and aspire to be you. However, I suspect that most people —like me — will have struggled to say yes to two or more of these statements. I encourage you over the next few weeks to consider true human connection. What did it look like in your childhood and what are the best bits of human connection that you would love to reinstate?

Be blessed! Mrs V xo



Pastor Mike - Devotion

Build on Solid Rock

Have you noticed how WISDOM is one of the nutrients that feeds the roots of our GROW logo? For a few weeks at Chapel, we've been GROWING an appreciation of Wisdom.

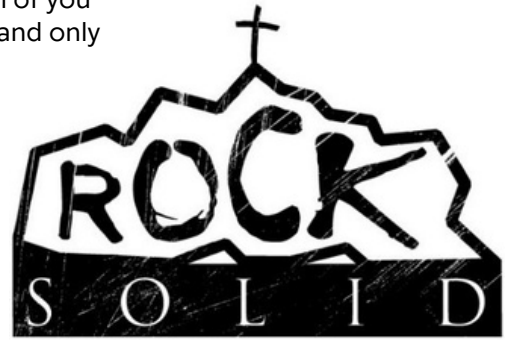
This week, we go to Jesus' analogy (parable) of the wise builder who builds on solid rock. It is foolish to build on shifting sand. Jesus gives us this picture to guide us in our building of our community and the life we live (Matthew 7:24). Ultimately, Jesus himself is the rock-solid foundation for life.

Paul writes: "You are God's building. Using the gift that God gave me, I did the work of an expert builder and laid the foundation, and someone else is building on it. But each of you must be careful how you build. For God has already placed Jesus Christ as the one and only foundation, and no other foundation can be laid." (1 Corinthians 3:10-11).

You are always welcome to come along and join in at Friday morning Chapel.

Prayer: "Jesus, you are our Rock. Thanks for being so rock solid for us, even being willing to give your life for us in a world that continues to fall apart because so many are prepared to build on very shaky foundations."

Pastor Mike



Who's Who in the Zoo?



We would like to honour Miss Seemann as one of our Year 4 teacher extraordinaire. She loves lasagna, AFL, cricket and spending her days at the beach.

Miss Seemann is well travelled having visited many countries including working and teaching in some third world countries. When she wasn't jet setting, Miss S grew up in Melbourne before moving to Brisbane. She has a passion for bringing the Christian message into our everyday lives here at St Paul's and her favourite bible verse is John 10:10 (The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.)

Thank you for all you do here at St Paul's Miss S!

What's coming up?



25 - Year 3 Science Centre Excursion
29 to 02/06 - National Reconciliation Week
31 - Piano Soiree



02 - Caboolture Districts Sports Gala Day
04 - Sunday @ 5 - Prep

**29 MAY
PHOTO DAY**

