

## CHAPEL MESSAGES FOR THE WEEK ENDING 16TH SEPTEMBER 2016

### MONDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

There was no Chapel Message today.

### TUESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

Good Morning All

It's a beautiful spring day here at Wesley. We give thanks for each new day.

Welcome to Week 7. Examinations week for our Senior School.

THANK YOU to our Tongan staff and students who led chapel last week as part of Uike Lea Fakatonga. Malo 'aupito!

Our theme for this week is GRACE.

The Bible reading was from Romans 5:1-8 on pages 1214 and 1395 in the Wesley Bibles.

GRACE is undeserved and unmerited favour and describes God's relationship with us. God embraces us with love and GRACE far beyond any measure ... immeasurable!

We are assured that God won't give up on us now or in the future.

We can truly be at peace with God because of this assurance!

We can relax in this kind of love and enjoy our relationship with God and with one another.

God's assurance is given because we don't learn overnight how to walk with Christ consistently.

But it means huge changes in the things we believe as well as completely different habits of thinking and living.

So if we are to learn genuine Christian living, then we must do so grounded in the profound assurance that we are secure in Christ and secured by God's GRACE.

Beginning to walk with Christ in the assurance of peace with God, is a good start.

Have a blessed day

### WEDNESDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

Good Morning All

Another fine Spring day at Wesley. We continually give thanks.

EXAMINATIONS begin today for our Senior School. We wish them well.

RETIREMENT Wednesday 21 September we will farewell Deputy Principal Mr Warrick Sanson after thirty seven years of service to our School.

Wednesday morning chapel the Students will farewell Mr Sanson and then in the evening there will be a formal Dinner.

We continue with our theme of GRACE.

The Bible reading was from 1 Peter 4:7-11 on pages 1368 and 1541 in the Wesley Bibles.

It's a hard one getting our heads around someone who loves us no matter what ... unconditionally.

It's even harder to get our heads around God gifting us with GRACE unmerited and undeserved.

Who understands a love like that? Who can fathom God who is full of GRACE?

It's a hard one to explain and it's only through experiencing God's GRACE that we come to know what it is, how it feels and then try to articulate what it's like.

Last week I was in Fiji conducting the wedding of my young cousin.

About a hundred and sixty people flew in from Australia, Samoa and New Zealand to witness and celebrate.

As a family we're pretty tight anyway, but there were those also in attendance who weren't family.

You can't put into words the feeling leading up to and on the wedding day as people gathered, some meeting for the first time, others not for a long time.

There was a singularity of purpose ... to give thanks, to witness and to celebrate the love of two people for each other.

The service was at Natalau Methodist Church, Sabeto and whether the young couple credited God with their coming together or not ... in that place and at that time and amongst those people, God's GRACE blessed them and all who gathered there.

Call it love, call it a fuzzy feeling, call it family, it was much bigger than all of us and the knowing of being embraced by it, we knew too that it was God and we were all there by the GRACE of God giving thanks for God's immeasurable GRACE as seen and experienced by us all. Unconditional, unmerited, underserved ... God's GRACE!

Have a blessed day

## **THURSDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

Good Morning All

It's a wet but warm day here at Wesley. We give thanks for the new day.

THANK YOU to Prefects Misaeli Manavahetau, Masima Sefesi and Head Girl Kalolaine Ikavuka for leading chapel worship.

The Bible reading was from 2 Corinthians 12 :8-9 on pages 1268 and 1446 in the Wesley Bibles.

v8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.

v9 But he said to me "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest in me.

We are part of a process - making our way in the world and to our Creator.  
We have a purpose - to glorify God every day in every way.  
Our purpose is 'to stay put on God.'  
We all go through stuff which challenges what we think and believe.  
We need to meditate and to pray, to keep to the process and purpose we are called to.  
When we are weak and need God's help, we ask God to help us.  
Our dependence on God makes us stronger and others see that even though we're struggling, we're doing ok God's GRACE is sufficient and every time we ask God for help, we know God won't let us down.  
We ought to be encouraged that God is there and someone we can lean on.  
Stay prepared, stay vigilant and with God's GRACE nothing is impossible.

Have a blessed day

## **FRIDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

Good Morning All

It's a grey, wet but fairly warm day here at Wesley. We give thanks for the new day.

TGIF the end of the penultimate week for Term 3. Time keeps marching on.

Senior examinations continue until next Tuesday.

Counties 7's Tournament at Colin Lawrie Fields, Pukekohe, Wed 21 Sept.

We have entered four teams. Go well to Coaches, Managers and Teams.

Our theme for this week has been GRACE.

The Bible reading was from Ephesians 2:4-10 on pages 1383 and 1457 in the Wesley Bibles.

If we have learnt anything this week about GRACE, it's that it's something really difficult to define and describe.

Unmerited and undeserved favour this is God's MO towards us and the world.

One young man said he only knows what GRACE is because he has experienced it ... you feel it, you see it, you know it, you show it.

God embraces us in this way of 'favour' which is about love and compassion and forgiveness but in saying that, it's so much more.

Compassion and love and forgiveness are only but an inkling of what God's GRACE is fully and perhaps it is only in the experience we can then understand and try to explain it.

The way of our Special Character and the Methodist ethos is that God's GRACE is very much a part of our school life and working with our young people. We understand that young people by their very nature are exactly that .... 'young' and will make mistakes.

Not every punishable offence is worthy of punishment and in working with our young ones, to teach them that there is another way.

is the way of GRACE ... that way is the way of 'favour' where not every punishable offence warrants punishment, where our young people feel safe enough to make mistakes knowing that they can do so in an environment which will continue to support them.

May the GRACE of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be ours always.

Have a blessed day and weekend

