

CHAPEL MESSAGES FOR THE WEEK ENDING 5th MAY 2017

MONDAY, 1st MAY 2017

Good Morning All

WELCOME back everyone to the start of Term 2. Happy 1st of May!

WELCOME to all new staff and students beginning with us this term.

We give thanks for everyone's safe return, for the sun shining today even though it's a bit cooler.

Our prayerful thoughts for Mrs Tangi and her family as they mourn the loss of their beloved grandmother who passed away last week.

CONGRATULATIONS to former Wesley students and graduates Mrs MJ Johansson Doctorate in Philosophy and her daughter Bayley a Bachelor of Arts. Awesome to you both!

CONGRATULATIONS to new entrant Kiara Nelson on her first day at Karaka School today.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Principal who won a silver medal in the 100mtrs at the World Master's Games.

What happened when you returned to school and saw your friends again?

What was the first thing you did upon seeing them? Did you turn around and walk away in the opposite direction?

Did you just ignore them? I bet there was hugs and smiles all around as you met up with your friends, your sisters and brothers after having been away for two weeks.

How did the hostel parents greet you, meet you yesterday when the Boarders returned to school?

How will the teachers meet and greet you today?

Is the challenge to be WELCOMING, not only on the first day but every day after.

Our theme for this first week of the second term is WELCOME.

The Bible reading was from Galatians 3:23-29 on pages 1275 and 1452 in the Wesley Bibles.

Our God is a WELCOMING God who WELCOMES anyone and everyone into God's family. While Jesus lived on earth, Jesus always WELCOMED anyone into His presence or to wherever He was preaching at the time.

With Jesus as our example, we should never be shy about WELCOMING others. Whether it's WELCOMING friends into our home, visitors to our school, or just saying hello to a stranger on the street, as God's people we should display the WELCOMING attitude God has.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28

This verse epitomizes God's WELCOMING attitude. This reminder was written to the early church because back in the day, it went against their culture to WELCOME people who were different from themselves (Greeks, slaves, etc.). Even today, there are people we find hard to WELCOME.

As a country we have welcomed 72,000 people into New Zealand over the last year and a quarter of that number are Kiwis returning home.

When we look at what happened in the UK with the Brexit vote, many people voted to leave because it would mean the UK could then have stricter controls on immigration. When we see what's happening in the United States and the wall President Trump wants to build to keep the Mexicans out - none of this is WELCOMING stuff. None of this kind of behaviour is WELCOMING of anyone.

Having and holding an attitude of WELCOME and of hospitality ...whether a smile, a kind word, helping someone, imagine our world without it.

Have a blessed day

TUESDAY, 2nd MAY 2017

Good Morning All

Another beautiful autumnal day. We give thanks.

The Year 9s and some Year 12s left for Camp this morning returning on Thursday. Have a great time!

We continue with the theme for this week of WELCOME.

The Bible reading was from Matthew 5:43-48 on pages 1009 and 1183 in the Wesley Bibles.

"For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? ... "

Matthew 5:46-48

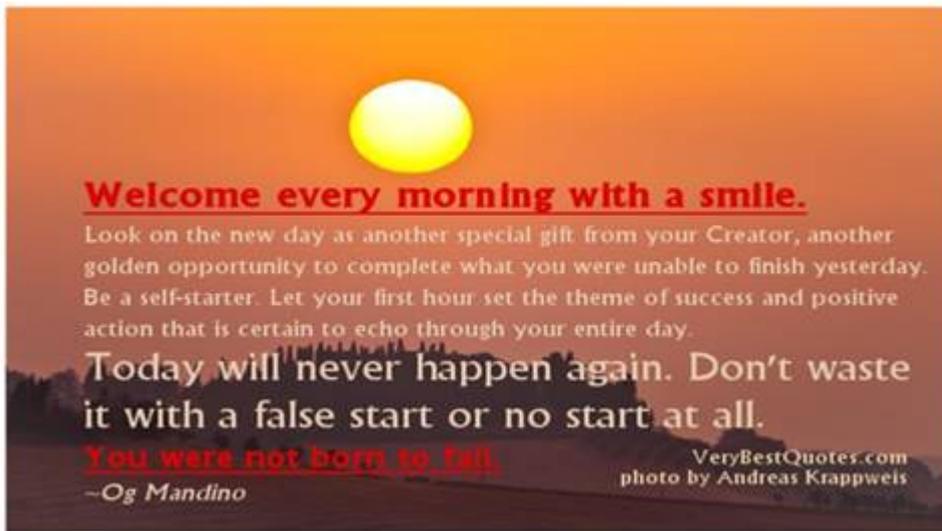
All good for loving those who love you back but how does that make us any different from everyone else doing the same thing?

What makes us different is that our God is all WELCOMING, inclusive, loving and respectful. When we know this about God it enables us to also WELCOME those we don't like or love or who don't love us back. What is different about those who are Christ-like is that regardless of whether people reciprocate or not, like Christ we continue to be WELCOMING.

The mark of being like Christ, is WELCOMING everyone, not just other people who believe in God.

The reading takes the concept of WELCOME and being WELCOMING to the next level.

Yesterday I said 'You're welcome' a lot and I said it after someone had said 'Thank you.' Saying thank you and you are welcome are expressed in all languages and tied up in values for example Samoans fa'a'aloalo, Tongans faka'apa'apa, Maori whakaute, Fijian vakarokoroko ... so this being WELCOMING is not something new or strange to us. New Zealanders and Pasifika are known throughout the world for being WELCOMING. Anzac Day was in part a celebration and remembrance of that kind of spirit when our elders fought the fight for a better world WELCOMING of each other.



Have a blessed day

WEDNESDAY, 3rd MAY 2017

Good Morning All

Another beautiful autumnal morning. We give thanks.

We hope the Year 9s are enjoying their camp. They return tomorrow.

We wish the 1st XV well as they travel to Cambridge to play St Peter's today . Kick off 2.15pm. Go hard Boys!

We wish Mr Owen Reeve well as he recuperates. Looking forward to having you back amongst us.

We wish Steve Autagavaia former student and teacher now Principal in Taumaranui well as he returns to work.

Our theme is WELCOME this week.

The Bible reading was from Luke 9: on pages and in the Wesley Bibles.

“When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing.” Luke 9:11

If we're to follow Jesus' example, then we should be as WELCOMING as Jesus is here in this story. Not only did He treat the crowds with kindness by WELCOMING them, He did something for them – telling them about the Kingdom, healing those in need of healing and then Jesus fed them. Being WELCOMING is sometimes more than just saying hello – it's finding ways to bless people.

The story of some members of the Florida State University football team who visited a school in Tallahassee went viral yesterday.

It was lunchtime and the visiting players were asked to join students in the cafeteria for lunch.

One of the footballers Travis Rudolph who plays wide receiver for the Seminoles noticed a young boy sitting by himself and so asked if he could sit with him. They struck up a conversation and Travis discovered that the young student Bo Paske was autistic. Travis' kindness towards Bo was an act of WELCOME, an act which said to Bo 'WELCOME to my world.'

Bo's mother who understands what autism is and the problems her son has in making friends was very thankful to Travis for befriending her son. Being WELCOMING is sometimes more than just saying hello - it's finding ways to bless people.

Have a blessed day

THURSDAY, 4th MAY 2017

Good Afternoon All

Where has the day gone!

Overcast and windy but all is well at Wesley.

We WELCOME back the Year 9 and 12 campers and staff.

We WELCOMED back last evening the 1st XV staff and team after their game at Cambridge against St Peter's.

Sadly it wasn't in our favour but lots to work on and take from the game. Kia kaha Boys! CONGRATULATIONS to Year 12 students Tai Taefu and Xavier Unasa who are the recipients of scholarships for full boarding.

The scholarships were provided through the generosity of the Freemasons who support many a project around young people.

CONGRATULATIONS to former Deputy Principal Mr Roger Biddle and his wife Suzie who will celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary in the weekend. Awesome!

Thank you to Year 11 students Marcus Tuiasosopo, Maloni Tongotongo and Junior Lemalu for leading chapel this morning.

The Bible reading was from Proverbs 27:1-10 on pages 681 and 804 in the Wesley Bibles. Marcus shared that he used to feel unworthy to be a member of his family, of the family here at school, those he hung out with.

He also felt that no one cared for or loved him - no one he felt really loved him even though he had doting parents.

Marcus discovered the WELCOMING love of God in Jesus Christ and knows now what being worthy and being loved feels like.

God's WELCOMING love ... It's endless, it's comforting, it's unconditional it's like a rainbow you can't see where it begins or where it ends. It just makes you feel overwhelmed when you know God is always going to be there.

Thank you Marcus!

Hope you have had a blessed day

FRIDAY, 5th MAY 2017

Good Morning All

WELCOME to the end of our first week. We give thanks for all that has been.

Our thoughts and prayers to the Rollerson Family on the death of Doug Rollerson former Wesley student and Wesley's first All Black. He played 24 games for the All Blacks including 8 tests between 1976 -198. Doug was 63 years old and passed away on Wednesday night, ending his seven-year fight with inoperable prostate cancer.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jono Taumateine who had his first hit out as half back for the Chiefs team last weekend.

GO WELL to all our rugby teams who will be kicking off their season tomorrow. Kia kaha!

It has been a WELCOMING week as we have sought to tease out what this means for us as God's people and us as a school.

The Bible readings were from 1 Samuel 25:4-6 on pages 297 and 359 and Acts 15:4 on pages 1189 and 1368 in the Wesley Bibles.

Here is another good illustration of Christians welcoming other Christians. This passage reminds us to be not just welcoming in general, but to welcome and serve workers in the church. Whether it's a missionary, an elder, or the groundskeeper, our cleaners and kitchen staff here at school anyone who works for the church should always feel WELCOMED.

"And thus you shall greet him: 'Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have.'" 1 Samuel 25:6

Peace - this is one of the simplest, easiest ways to ensure that we always have a welcoming attitude.

When we focus on peace - in our hearts, our homes, our school and in the words we say and our actions - everyone around us will feel WELCOME.

The month of May here in NZ is dedicated as New Zealand Music Month where we celebrate New Zealand musicians and their music.

Dave Dobbyn is one such New Zealander who is considered an icon and who personifies what NZ music is about.

One of his most famous songs is the song 'WELCOME HOME' which he says for him is his most proudest achievement.

The lyrics are timeless and speak of the times when it was written but are also very relevant to us today.

Dobbyn first sung it at former Prime Minister David Lange's funeral, it is our prayer for former Wesleyan Doug Rollerson.

To all our Wesleyan Family wherever you are throughout the world WELCOME HOME!

Have a blessed day and weekend.