



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

4TH OCTOBER 2020



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Faith Building

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1, NIV

If I am being honest, there are times in my life when words like ‘wobbly’, ‘shallow’ and ‘weak’ are words that describe my faith. (Maybe you can identify with me here). Yet life’s adverse circumstances can, but shouldn’t, cause my faith to fluctuate, if I am fully trusting in Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

However, I have come to realise that, when my faith level is low, I am the one responsible for building my faith up again and giving it a ‘boost’. I need to acknowledge the fact that God doesn’t just come along and hand me faith on a plate. Although faith is a gift from God, He expects me to actively pursue or seek more faith, ‘Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him’ (Hebrews 11:6).

To build up my faith when it may be flagging, there are things I can do that will help. It is always helpful to remember times when God has met with me and shown me His love and faithfulness, the times when He has met with me in a special way, giving me His help, comfort and a deep sense of peace during difficult times in my life.

Focusing on encouraging scripture verses will also build my faith up again, as well as remembering answers to prayer I have received from God.

Another important way to build faith is to praise and thank God, even when I don’t feel like doing so. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, ‘Give thanks in all circumstances for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus’.

Sometimes it is easier to wallow in self-pity than turn to things that encourage my faith level to rise again. But self-pity is destructive, whereas faith-building is constructive. Other Christians can encourage us and we in turn can encourage them in their faith. The bible says, ‘Therefore encourage one another and build each other up just as in fact you are doing’ (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

When my body needs food, I need to feed it, or I will starve physically. In the same way, when my spirit needs food, I need to feed it with all those things mentioned above to save myself from spiritual starvation. It doesn’t take much effort for most of us to feed our bodies with food, but it does require discipline on our part to feed our spirit.

Sometimes, if I’m honest, I simply can’t be bothered, because it’s not as easy as grabbing a bag of crisps, a bar of chocolate or biscuits from the kitchen cupboard. But perhaps over-eating physically can be a symptom of under-eating spiritually, as I attempt to fill the empty spaces in my life.

Maybe it’s time to ask the question, “How well am I doing on this?” And then I need to give an honest answer.

- Judith Whitehead [Seeds of the Kingdom](#)



& PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

What an awesome turnout! The House of Brick Lego Holiday activity that was held Monday 28th September in Methven. Both kids and parents engaging and having fun creating. There were over 50 children and 15-20 adults present. The program was run really well. Great work and planning to Jayne and all who helped with set up and pack up.



STRAINER POST

It stands at the point of tension, at the place of strain and demarcation. It is firmly set in the soil, like a buttress, well footed and stabilised by stays, bearing the immense pull of the wires and battens, like a harp of the outdoors singing in the wind, and loaded with the weighty swing of the farm gate.

God, you are like the strainer in our lives, in our church, in our community, unchangeable yet versatile, ageless like the clinging lichen, enduring and yet ever new.

Help us draw on the strength of your love, on the heritage of spirituality and tradition from which we draw strength, and on the regular rhythm of prayer and worship, help us embrace the diversity of our community. Be a totara - like sentinel in our ever - changing world.

From the Book Seasons of the Land by Bill Bennett.



Plants 4 U @ Rakaia

This Saturday 3rd October from 9 am until 1 pm

Lots of interesting plants for sale.

Get your vegetable garden sorted this weekend.

We will also have jam, baking, white elephant, and a small 'garage' sale. Lots of goodies for all.

Bring cash and your own carry bags please.

St. Andrew's Rakaia

Saturday 3rd October

Plants 4 U @ Rakaia | 9 am -1 pm

Tuesday 6th October

10:30 am | Rakaia Fit Kids | with Miranda Fun, dancing and morning tea,

An all age programme, so bring the older kids along over the school holidays.. .

Steady As You Go NO Class this week. Holiday for all.

Tuesday 13th October

11:30 am | Friendship Gathering | Quiz time with Karen

*Please Note. Plains Speaking mistake Service at St Andrew's 11 October listed as 9.30am, should be 10.30am.
Parish Service at St Andrews Sunday 11th October at 10.30am followed by AGM. With a shared lunch.

St. John's Methven

Friday 16th October

7:30 pm | Family Quiz Night | Questions for all the family with supper provided. Teams 5 or 6 | Adults \$5, School Children \$3.
Come along, great fun for all. For more info contact Joan Wright 30286668 or Graham Marr 3028682

Sunday Services for October

4th 10:30 am

St. John's Methven

Rev. John Titlow;
Parish Service

11th 10:30 am

St. Andrew's Rakaia

Rev. Arii; Parish AGM to
follow with shared lunch

Father God, please forgive me for the times in my life when my faith has not been as strong and healthy as it should be and I have been forgetful of the many ways You have shown Yourself faithful to me. Help me to never give up seeking to know You more and to put my complete faith and trust in You, in Jesus' name, Amen.

- Judith Whitehead [Seeds of the Kingdom](#)

