

CHAPLAIN'S COMMENT

To all associated with the Lindisfarne College community – greetings in Christ's name.

What a year it has been for the Christian Dimension of our college. With the alterations to the Chapel sanctuary completed early in 2007, term two began with the unveiling and dedication of the five stain glass windows – one for each of our houses – Aidan, Cuthbert, Durham and Oswald; and of course, the feature “Good Man” window – with four prominent New Zealanders featuring – Sir Edmond Hillary, Earnest Rutherford, Charles Upham and John Rangihau. With strong representation from the Tuhoe people at the unveiling, the occasion was a deeply impressive and moving one.

This was followed on the Sunday evening with a service of rededication of the chapel by the Moderator of the Gisborne/Hawkes' Bay Presbytery, the Rev Colin English of St Paul's, Napier. These alterations provide a very clear and strong statement that we are a church school and that central to all the activities we involve ourselves in, is the Christian Dimension. It is also encouraging seeing a number of students using the side chapel in the course of the school day, as a place of quietens and reflection in the midst of the busyness.

These occasions were followed by our annual **Baptism and Confirmation Service**. The Bishop of Waiapu, the **Rt. Rev. John Bluck**, and the minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Hastings, the **Rev. Craig Kilgour** assisted me in the service. With Bishop John retiring in 2008, this will be the last time that he will assist with this service.

This year the following students were baptised: **Benson Charles Thomas, Jordan Jay Thomas (Hereworth School), Timothy John Clayton, Charlie David Todd, Oliver William Boaler, Mason Randall Laurent and Scott Douglas McCormick**. The following were confirmed: **George Abernethy, Oliver Boaler, Aidan Collin, William Findlay, George Goodwin, James Holden, Bryn Morgans, Arama Wakefield-SciaScia, Ben Thomas, Gregory Thomsen and Angus Thorman**. Congratulations to these boys for being willing to stand before their peers and make a clear declaration of their faith. They place a fine example before their fellow students to follow.

The final of our three Bible Reading Competitions was also held in Term Three with the **Senior Bible Reading Competition**. This was once again keenly contested. In third place was **William Findlay**, second place **Antony D'Esposito**, and the winner of the 2007 R F Campbell Senior Bible Reading

Competition was **Tane Huata**. All who participated are to be congratulated on the very high standard set.

House Chapel Services have continued during the second half of the year with **Year 11, 10, 9 and Year 13** students leading these. Once again a very high standard has been set and the themes many and varied. Well done to all boys who have taken on the challenge of leading our school community in worship and especially to the Year 13 students who so ably gave their valedictory addresses, setting an all time high in terms of standards and themes.

My thanks goes once more to the **Mr John Snowling** and **Mr Flemming Kristensen** and the various groups of **student musicians** for accompanying our singing in assemblies and chapels throughout the year, and especially to our **young musicians** who have done this task in fine style while our seniors have been on examination leave. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

To the team of ladies who have **arranged flowers** throughout the year – thank you. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, even if they have been lost just a little amidst the alterations to the chapel sanctuary. And to the **boys and parents of the Lindisfarne College community** – thank you for your support of the Christian Dimension through your support of Sunday Chapel Services. Attendance has again this year, been very encouraging with worship, for many, becoming a family occasion. The year ends with the Christian Dimension in strong heart, remaining an extremely positive influence upon the life of our school community and beyond.

To all those students and families for whom the end of the year marks the end of your direct association with Lindisfarne College, I wish you well for the future. For those continuing or beginning their involvement, enjoy the summer break and begin the New Year ready to meet the challenges and opportunities that 2008 will inevitably provide.

The Christmas season approaches quickly and I leave you with these words:



This
Xmas,
I would
like to put
up a tree in my
heart, and instead
of hanging presents,
I would like to put the
names of all my friends.
Close friends and not so close
friends. The old friends the new
friends. Those that I see every day
and the ones that I rarely see. The ones
that I always remember and the ones that
I sometimes forget. The ones that are always
there and the ones that seldom are. The friends of
difficult times and the ones of happy times. Friends
who, without meaning to, I have hurt, or, without meaning
to have hurt me. Those that I know well and those I only know
by name. Those that own me little and those that owe me so much.
My humble friends and my important friends. The names of all those
that have passed through my life no matter how fleetingly. A tree with
very deep roots and very long
and strong branches so that
their names may never be
plucked from my heart. So
that new names from all
over may join the existing ones. A tree with a very
pleasant shade so that our friendship may take a
moment of rest from the battles of life. "May the
happy moments of Xmas brighten every day of
the new year." These are my sincere wishes.

May the peace and joy of the festive season be with you and yours throughout
the year ahead..

Regards

Rev Warren Fortune
Chaplain

AIDAN HOUSE YEAR 13 CHAPEL SERVICE

SERMON – CHAD GREER

READING – JAMES GADDUM

Faith and Belief

Myself and others in the room today have been fortunate enough to attend Lindisfarne College over the past 5-7 years. Throughout our time here we have been involved in a very important part of this school life, the Christian dimension. Attending chapel 3 times a week has helped shape and mould us to the young men we are today. I have chosen the topic today, faith and belief, because they are both very important parts of our life. Firstly I feel that this wonderful school has helped us to believe in ourselves, giving us our own self-belief and confidence in all that we do. It has given us faith in our ability to learn and faith in the ability of our good teachers to teach us what we need to learn. From this faith we have established belief in our school and its high standards along with morals and the 4 corner stones. Whether it's the sporting endeavour, cultural participation or academic diligence, faith and belief are vital just as you must have faith and belief in God.

Now, in the reading that was just shared with us this afternoon it talks about faith without works is dead. Verse 18 gives us a clear analogy as it says, (but some one will say "you have faith, and I have works". Show me your faith without your works and I will show you my faith by my works) Faith is talked about all the time; it is one of the central elements of the Christian Faith. One cannot be a Christian without faith in Jesus Christ. As John 3:16 says, "Whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

Now many of you in the room today may think that you have faith but you need to show your faith by your works. This means that if you truly have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ you will live your life following the steps of Jesus trying to live a life like he did, I'm not saying that this will be easy because it's not. No one is perfect. But as I said before if you truly have faith in God you will show it by doing good works.

The Christian dimension at this school has given us the very best morals and values to live our lives by, and it's up to you as individuals to decide whether you have faith and believe in God. My challenge to you today is to make a conscious decision on whether you have faith and belief in God. And if you feel that you have faith in God, then go out and show it by your good works.

I would now like to leave you with an inspiring message, which I discovered. While you may not always get what you want, you will always get what you expect! Surprisingly, the power of belief and expectation work just as effectively on your feelings of self-doubt and limitation, as they do on your thoughts of success and achievement. Think thoughts of defeat or failure and you are bound to be discouraged.

Belief is an incredibly powerful state of mind. Your belief system not only defines and shapes who you are, but it also determines your potential. Henry Ford was correct when he said, "Whether you think you can or think you can't – you are right".

CUTHBERT HOUSE YEAR 13 CHAPEL SERVICE

SERMON – MARK SMITH

READING – WILLIAM WALKER

Respect Life

Four years and five days ago on the 17th October 2003, my cousin, Andrew Girdlestone, aged 15, sat down with his Mum after school to go over his mock exam results and planned what subjects he would continue on with next year and they discussed possible careers he could aim for. He had always wanted to be an Architect similar to myself and therefore chose subjects that would help him on his way. However little did he know that within an hour that plan would have been worthless and his life would be changed forever.

After the discussion with his Mum he went out, as he did every night for a fitness bike ride. The track he followed meant that he had to cross the train track in Silverstream, Wellington. Every day he crossed the track at a controlled pedestrian crossing with no problem at all. Today however, would be different. When he arrived the lights were flashing, sirens sounding and a train was coming along the track. Being an extremely competent cyclist, he stayed on the bike rocking back and forth as to not lose his balance. As the train approached the crossing it sounded its horns making Andrew turn his attention to it, but that was where things went wrong. As he turned, he rocked a little too far forward making his wheel go slightly too far out over the edge and with his attention on a train approaching from his left he didn't see the train coming from his right....

The train clipped his tyre throwing Andrew and his bike against the side of the train. Andrew's head hit the side of the train shattering his helmet and he was then thrown to the ground, again hitting his head. Unconscious and in a critical condition he was flown to Wellington Hospital where he would spend the next two weeks in ICU. Andrew's family were told he had little chance of survival and it was certain he would be a completely different person if he did. None of us knew how to react, it was one of those freak things to happen, the one you never expect to happen to you. We all stayed positive as Andrew had always been a healthy and active teenager, we prayed that he would pull through.

Andrew fortunately was given a life saving treatment that was being tested to relieve swelling to the brain. This meant Andrew was given a second chance at life. He spent nine months in rehab and slowly made a recovery, surprisingly to almost the same person he was. However he now struggles to concentrate and stay awake for a long time. His personality is not the same. He struggles to show any emotions. He was obviously unable to continue towards being an architect however I feel honoured and blessed to know Andrew and spend time with him as he is a person who now truly respects life.

In the reading that Willy has just enlightened us with, it is the story of the creation of life, the creation of us, the creation of the complexity that makes up our own living selves. Let's think about it. We are so amazingly put together, each one of us with a different face, each with different personalities, each with long puzzles of arteries and blood streams flowing around our bodies. We, much like Andrew's survival, are miracles, an act of God. We did not survive the race at birth without the help of God, we could not be put together without the help of God and we certainly would not have life without the help of God.

God has not only made many sacrifices for us but he allowed each of us, he has chosen each one of us, to experience life on his earth. Why then do I see so many

people disrespecting it, disrespecting the life we were chosen to live out of 10,000 different possible lives that we could have lived? People seem to take it for granted that we are miracles of God's work and should live in a way that respects that fact.

I'm going to mention drugs, smoking and alcohol abuse but only just briefly as there are bigger issues. However, there is a problem with what we are doing with our bodies. OK, so drugs and alcohol may put you in a trance and create a semi illusional world, but why do that? Didn't God place you on this earth to live in his world? The thing is, too many people want to experience more than just this world we see around us. Everyone knows that smoking and drugs will kill you, but still you see people out doing this everyday. How can that not be completely disrespecting life?

I mentioned bigger issues and I want to draw your attention back to Andrew's story to help me explain this. Andrew turns twenty this week and four years on he has now got himself a secure job as a tradesman. Andrew was extremely bright and had a future ahead of him. However since the accident he has had to struggle through fifth and sixth form again, only just scraping through. Now he doesn't have the highest paying job but he is determined to live life as a builder and work up to a high position in the industry. I have no doubt that he will.

The fact why I've mentioned that, is that Andrew, even in his circumstances, is living life fully and trying to gain the most out of life, not sitting at home making a fuss out of his misfortune. Too many people these days are letting chances slip by, thinking that they've got their whole lives in front of them to do that thing again. But what would happen if an accident, like Andrew's, happened to you? What if you were to drive out the gates today and have a freak accident with another car? You would be different, you may not have a chance to do that thing you turned down earlier. I'm not preaching, 'take every opportunity you can', but instead I am preaching 'respect life as it's a blessing that every one of you woke up this morning and made it to school.' Do take every opportunity as the things you let slip by may never come back around again.

There is also the fact of respecting others lives I want to bring up. You, as well as everyone in this room, everyone in the city, country and the world, have been blessed with life. It's OK to say you respect your own life and feel blessed to have one, but everyone has a life to be respected too. There obviously are differences in everybody and I believe God made us each how we are to fulfil and respect the life that we lead. So why make a judgement on someone else, why put someone down about how they are living life. There should be respect for that one's life, as well as your own. Of course those judgements and put downs will never stop around the world, but it can stop here, by just a simple awareness and respect for life.

There comes a time when we are all faced with a challenge. As for Andrew, it was surviving and recovering from the suffering his body took. But it's how we deal with these challenges and how we respect the opportunities of life that makes the rewards worthwhile. My challenge is not just for today, not just for a week, not even just for the year but also for the rest of your life. And you know what I'm going to say. 'Think about Andrew and think about the fact that you all have been blessed with life. Live it like you feel lucky to be given the gift of it. Respect life!'

DURHAM HOUSE YEAR 13 CHAPEL SERVICE
SERMON – ANTONY D’ESPOSITO
READING – HAMISH MCNICOL

For many people the idea of faith is represented by having a belief in someone or something. For example by your parents sending you to Lindisfarne they have made a statement which suggests that they have a strong belief in the teachers at Lindisfarne to transform you from a boy in year 7 or year 9 into a well rounded man by year 13. As individuals we can have faith in many different things, minor and major. Perhaps the greatest thing that we can have faith in however is to have faith in God and religion.

I understand that a lot of the congregation here have different views of faith and religion but as individuals we should all hold the idea of faith in one way or another. Faith can often be overlapped with persistence in your self. In the reading Hamish shared with us the idea of faith is represented by Jesus suggesting that something as small as a mustard seed can bring happiness to many things. Jesus amongst all held the belief that once the mustard seed was sown it would grow a fraction larger each night as he went to sleep. His strong faith in the mustard seed ensured that it grew and to such an extent that all the creatures admire it and seek refuge beneath its shadowing. Jesus’ faith shows us all that by placing belief in something the ability of succeeding is far greater and when that thing finally reaches its peak the satisfaction is beneficial to all involved.

A story that we can all relate to which represents faith is the performance of the English rugby team in the recent Rugby World Cup. I know that everybody in this room would like to forget about the Rugby World Cup but if we look at the Cup from the English perspective there are valuable lessons to be learnt. In the first month of the Rugby World Cup England struggled past minors; Tonga, USA and Samoa and were easily defeated by the eventual winners South Africa 36-0. The entire rugby world, including people from their own country had written England off. As far as Australia were concerned, they were through to the semi finals with the quarter finals against England, much like New Zealand verses France. What England showed, to get back up against all the media coverage which slayed them, was truly great.

The English rugby team against all odds overcame Australia and France in back to back weeks to ensure a second consecutive Rugby World Cup final. Although their style of rugby was far from entertaining, as a camp, they highlighted where their strengths and weaknesses lay and obviously played the game to their own advantage. Most other countries when faced with an uphill battle like this, no teams need to be mentioned, would have completely folded with little home support and nobody ready to give them a chance. England however went back to the drawing board and as one of their players said “took a good hard look in the mirror at themselves”. All the staff and players realised the ability in the camp and trusted one another to perform. To do this the team had to have faith in not only their own ability but their team mates. The ability to have faith gave the English rugby team the power to succeed when absolutely nobody believed they could. Unfortunately for England, their emotion filled run was ended by a better and more complete South Africa team in the final.

The English rugby team only needed a smidgeon of faith to succeed, in this case their victory was represented by reaching the final. This example is exactly like the smidgeon of faith Jesus had in the mustard seed. The faith in both of these examples was enough to carry them through and produce something quite spectacular. The end result was that the final product was something that many

different things, humans and creatures could enjoy. These two stories both exert the greater power of faith in the world we are in today.

One of the greatest characteristics of faith is that it can almost be applied to anything, from putting faith in your team mate to perform to having faith in your own academic ability. The beauty about faith is that the more we use it, the better our world and our lives become, because generally when we show enough faith in something it's chances of success become greater. If you believe in your own ability or someone else believes in your own ability we all perform better. The idea here is to create a positive environment and to minimise doubt.

For Christians the idea of faith is much deeper and has much more meaning. Faith is believing in religion, it is believing God. Extra stress must be placed on the idea of believing and belief. Although many people may argue that this can never be proved. I urge you to understand the benefits that this belief serves you as an individual. Believing in God gives many individuals the power to succeed in their own lives as God acts as a mentor, a friend and inspiration. The belief in God helps people to understand much of which science cannot prove because by believing in God an individual's determination and power to succeed is significantly enhanced because for those who believe in God their self-belief is maximised and trust in their own ability is also great. Knowing that God will serve you as you have served Him acts as a shield of reassurance. Imagine that God is your inner character, having faith in God will strengthen your abstract characteristics, soften your grief and intensify all your happy emotions. What people do not understand is the power faith can give a person as opposed to the commitment they are afraid of making.

By having faith in Christianity we also ensure living by good values. The values of life that the Bible proposes that we live by are ideas of honesty, love, generosity, trust etc. By living with equal focus on each of these words the world that we are a part of becomes a much more fair and peaceful place to live in. Many people choose to ignore these values as they are scared of making a commitment into the Christian faith but let me assure you that the commitment is full of positives. The improvements which we benefit from living by the Bible far exceed the benefits you get by following any other guide to life. Living by these values makes tension in the world ease dramatically and I'm sure that if we all adopted these values the way we live would significantly improve.

OSWALD HOUSE YEAR 13 CHAPEL SERVICE

SERMON – TANE HUATA

READING – JAMES HARTY

On the movie Sister Act 2 one of the characters sings the following quote, "If you want to be somebody, if you wanna go somewhere, you better wake up and pay attention".

If you want to be somebody, you wanna go somewhere, you better wake up and be persistent. Persist, persist, persist! (Raymond used a new initiative with us this Sunday when he involved the audience in his Sermon) so I want to know what persistence is to you. Does anybody in the congregation know what persistence is? Hands up..... Yes you, David..yes having persistence is having the ability to have a goal and keep on pushing yourself until you reach that goal. It's refusing to give up or let go, it's being insistently repetitive or indefinitely continuous. Let me share with you a character whom I believe shares this quality of persistence.

Anyone who watched TV last Saturday night may have seen the movie Rocky. While this movie may seem meat-headed and cheesy, if you look deeply into the film you will see that there are very valuable lessons on persistence. Those of you who haven't seen the movie let me fill you in. Rocky Balboa was a fictional character portrayed by Sylvester Stallone in the 'Rocky' series from 1976 to 2006. He is famously known for having the heart of a lion and the guts of an elephant. In 1976, Balboa was living in the slums of Kensington, Philadelphia working as an enforcer for a local loan shark while at the same time fighting the local club circuit. Balboa finally got his major break when the World Heavyweight Boxing Champion, Apollo Creed, arrived in Kensington hoping to put local talent to the test. Balboa was chosen and labelled by Creed as a nobody. To everyone's surprise and disbelief Balboa was eventually crowned the World Heavyweight Boxing Champion.

A few years had passed and Rocky had successfully defended his title on 10 occasions against various contenders. However in 1981, Balboa was challenged by a newcomer that was terrorising through the ranks of the boxing world, a man called James "Cobbler" Lang. After accepting the invitation, Balboa was scheduled to meet Lang in the ring and so he did. Balboa was defeated in the 2nd round. Losing the title.

Days later, Balboa met with Apollo Creed who offered to train him for the Balboa Lang rematch. They began working on Balboa's speed and overall confidence. Let's see if you're able to pick out persistence through this video.

This video showed Rocky's intent to persist and to defeat Apollo Creed at his own game. At the start of the training Rocky was slow and lost time and time again against Creed in the sprints on the beach, but Balboa kept on trying, kept on persisting, kept on pushing himself until he reached his desired result. After Balboa completed his training he plunged into the square circle to once again meet with Lang, Balboa narrowly defeated him. Persistence people, persistence is the key to unlocking our potential, he realised his dream and pounded at that dream each day. If Rocky hadn't persisted surely he would have been a joke in the eyes of Lang, but he set himself a goal and achieved it through persistence. If only we all had the same passion to persist in whatever field we excel in we could exceed our potential and have the same outcome as Rocky had.

In the reading that James just shared with us, Marianne Williamson urges us that (and I quote) "Our playing small does not serve the world for we are in the house of God". Marianne Williamson encourages us through 'being someone' we are serving not just ourselves but God as well. Williamson continues to say:

"We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone."

Everyone here has the ability to have a dream and achieve that dream, the glory of God is not just in some of us it is in the soul, mind and heart of everyone seated here today.

Nelson Mandela is often used as an inspirational man who strongly represents the value of persistence, so I'll use him as an example. On the 12th June, 1964, Nelson Mandela was charged with a life sentence and was forced to serve on the infamous Robben Island for leading the black people of South Africa against apartheid. Mandela pledged what he will keep persisting against apartheid until it finally came to an end, until black and white people had dined together, until black and white people shared the same park benches, until black and white people were united under one rule, under God himself.

Mandela once said – “During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to the struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die”.

Mandela was both persistent in his message and was also persistent in his activity, while he was in prison they gave Mandela cruel jobs that would crush the soul of a man. Each day the prisoners were woken to take a cold plunge into water early in the morning and were to return to crush rocks all day. Mandela persisted in not only himself but also persisted in his beliefs in God. In the reading Simon shared with us, Jesus persisted in his beliefs in God even though he was suffering a severe case of starvation. Jesus says to the devil after he was tempted with food: “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God”.

Jesus is tempted twice more with power and glory offered by the devil, but Jesus denies this power by saying: “Begone Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only’”.

Let me share a story with you I once read from a Christian website on the internet: One day, a town called Pastings suffered a massive downpour of rain that flooded up to the roofs of all the houses in the area. One certain man was very unique. How was he unique you may ask? Well we never committed a sin without confessing, he had never spoken a swear word and more importantly, he was a strong follower of God. This boy’s name was, you guessed it, Jimmy. God had his eye on Jimmy and particularly didn’t want Jimmy to die. A paddle boat comes past Jimmy’s path and one man on the boat says “Hey mate, would you like to jump on the boat, you know this flood is likely to get worse”. Jimmy replied, “No thank you I believe my God will save me”. Minutes later Jimmy noticed that the flood was rising. Jimmy was on top of his roof and the flood had reached his hips, suddenly a power boat had come to rescue Jimmy as it had done with 10 other lucky survivors. One man aboard the boat screamed “Mate hurry up and get on the boat or your toast!”. Jimmy kept his composure but still waiting for God to save him, he gave the same reply as he did to the previous, “Nay, I believe in my God, surely he will save me”. The flood was getting treacherous and at that point had swept Jimmy off the roof. A helicopter then came along to rescue any of the remaining citizens of Pastings held hostage to this natural disaster. One of the men on board yelled out to Jimmy, “Mate, we’re here to save you, grab on tight to this!”. The man let down a ladder. As you’d probably expect Jimmy said once again quite softly, “Nay I believe in my God, surely he will come and save me”. Seconds later, Jimmy drowned and died. While in heaven Jimmy saw God and asked him quite angrily, “God I was stranded in that flood and you never came to save me, why not?!”. God replied to Jimmy, “Now there Jimmy, so I send you two boats and a helicopter, how else am I meant to save you?”.

The moral of this story is that although God doesn’t look like He’s persisting with us, the truth is that He is. He believes in everyone of us. He is persistent and He will test us. He wants us to come out of the depths of disaster and achieve success. We know God is persistent with us, so let’s all be persistent in our faith with God.

To end I’ll leave you now with a quote by Martin Luther King, “The genuine people have the ability to initiate, articulate and follow through with their mission”.

Persistence is the key people, whether it be achieving a goal or believing in the words of Jesus Christ and of the presence of God, persistence is the key.

HEAD PREFECT'S CHAPEL SERVICE ***SERMON – RAYMOND MUNN***

Tane shared with us a reading based around the death of Jesus. He was a pure man and had done no wrong. "The spotless lamb of God" as it says in John 1:29. Jesus was an innocent man and yet he was persecuted, beaten, whipped. Spat upon and finally he was put to death on the cross. What I want to focus in on though, for this message, is what happened immediately after the death of Jesus and in particular with the centurion's reaction to the event.

Hopefully on the screen you can see one of the pictures of a recent Dayboys vs Boarders rugby league game. Rugby is something that the boys hold in high regard at Lindisfarne, particularly the boarders. So I'm sure many in here can relate to the processes that go on in one of our games but if you're a bit older in years and you can't, then don't worry, I'm sure you'll get the idea after I tell you this quick story.

The bell for the end of the day rings and young Jimmy and all the boys head out for a game of touch rugby. Now Jimmy isn't the most confident rugby player and when it comes for the teams to be picked he's slightly afraid to see whether he gets picked or not. As the boys go to their particular teams once picked, Jimmy finds himself standing in no mans land until he is the last one left. Reluctantly one of the team captains puts you on his side.

No this is not a personal story but Jimmy has been given three positions to work with. He has to be put on team A or team B but while in the process he sort of plants himself in the middle.

This story is very similar to God's creation of man and God's purpose for us. Let me explain. Bob Dylan wrote a song saying "it may be the devil or it may be the Lord but you're gonna have to serve somebody". We have been put on this earth with the ability to walk two roads. The narrow winding road to eternal life and the broad easy going road to destruction, just like having team A and team B in the touch game. However, there is one major difference to all of this. Unlike the touch game where sides are picked for you, God has gifted us the ability of free will, choices and decisions, letting us choose for ourselves which team to be on, which road we will walk down and who we are going to serve.

One thing I've learned about persuasive speaking criteria is that you've got to interact and involve your audience. So that's exactly what I'm going to do to provide another example of what our lives are like at the moment and which way we are heading. I'll just get Simon Luke to come here and he's going to be our obstacle.

- Get two volunteers
- Get first volunteer to walk towards the sanctuary, touch the bench then come back.
- Ask, "Did you notice that there were two sides that you could have taken to approach the bench?"
- "And would you say that there was a 50/50 chance that you could have gone to the left or the right of Simon?"

Let's change things around a bit.

- Place the first volunteer on Simon's left and position volunteer two on his right.
- Make the second volunteer go through the same process.
- Ask "There were two ways in which you could approach the bench. Why did you go that way?".
- Make him run through the process again and explain along the way.

Take a good look at the set up we've got here. The broad side the second volunteer is standing on is the position that we all start out in. We are all on the broad road to destruction. Just like when you make any decision, the wrong one tends to get you no where and if you do nothing it tends to get you nowhere as well. Only a right decision will get you somewhere. That's why initially we are all on the broad road and we must choose whether to continue along it or veer off it. So here is our walk through life shown by second volunteer. So here we are walking through life and we suddenly come to an intersection. The broad road ahead looks tempting and easy but the narrow road is windy and difficult. So when we get to the intersection we need to choose our path. Can we give our volunteers a round of applause for helping out?

So when we get to the intersection we have to make a decision, but how do we know? One of the subjects I take this year and have done over the past two years is accounting. One of the first things I learned was this. The purpose of accounting is to provide users with sound financial information to help them make informed decisions.

Every day we all make decisions but the decisions we make have to be informed decisions. Or in other words, we have to analyse our options because to make the wrong decision could be very costly. When choosing which career to take you have to look at your options. When tossing up over drugs consider the consequences. When deciding which girl to go out with get out there and check out the talent, as the wrong decision here could also be costly.

But the biggest decision and the most important decision we have to make is who will I serve? Which road will I walk down? Will I continue with the devil down the path to destruction or will you derail your train and track Jesus down the narrow road. In Tane's reading the centurion stood at the base of the cross where Jesus was hanging and made the statement that "surely this man was the son of God". Despite the prophets such as Daniel, Isaiah and Jeremiah prophesising over hundreds of years that God would send his son, the people, including the centurion, did not believe that he was the promised messiah. It was only once the Son of God had died that the centurion began to believe saying "surely this man was the Son of God".

How many times in your life have you made a decision and realised it was a complete stuff-up after you had made it. I do it quite often, far too often. We end up asking ourselves "what if?". What if I put in the extra effort maybe I would have passed? What of I manned up and put my body on the line, maybe he wouldn't have scored that try?". What if I had got a taxi home?

When we make mistakes as a result of bad decisions we try to learn from it to not make the same mistake again and we try to work the "what if?" question out of our game plan. But there is a decision that we all have to make that cannot be fixed. That we cannot go aback and say "what if?". This is the decision whether to serve the Lord or not.

The centurion did not believe that Jesus was the promised messiah until after he had died. He had been warned through prophecies that such events would come to pass but still he turned away. I urge everyone in this chapel today to take note of the decision and reaction of the centurion because history is about to repeat itself with you. Before I continue Ant will bring us another reading.

(Matthew 24:30-32)

There you have it. Here is the promise that Jesus is coming again and this promise has been reiterated again and again throughout the Bible. We have been warned. We have been given two options along with their consequences. Stay on our present course and perish or follow Jesus and don't perish. We have been shown the choice and statement made by the centurion for us to learn from. Whether a preacher or a listener in this chapel tonight "we're gonna have to serve somebody". You have to make a decision and no one else can make it for you.

Up round the East Cape would be one of my favourite holiday spots where you can go diving, fishing, hunting and there's this awesome rock that we climb up and jump off into the river. It's quite a difficult rock to climb but once you're at the top there's two places where you could jump from. Jump to the right and you jump into the current and you get swept down the river where you have no chance of getting back to the rock. Jump to the left and you jump into an area where the embankment diverts the current and you are not swept away. I don't think I need to tell you the symbolic significance of the two directions but the point is that when you jump, one way or the other, the decision has been made.

We have to make a decision. I think I've made that pretty clear but if you think you've got all the time in the world to make it then you're wrong. Earlier on in Matthew 24 it says this, "nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are beginning of pain. The gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come". My Dad always used to say this to me and now I say it to you. The end is near mate. Our time on this earth is limited. So I urge everyone from the book of Joshua "choose this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord".

I've heard many people say that "what if we go through life a Christian life and we get to the end only to the end and realise that it wasn't a sham and you will now spend the rest of eternity in pain and anguish thinking to yourself only if".

Which team will you be on? Which road will you walk down? Who are you going to serve? What side of the rock will you jump from? Which side of the line will you stand? Which ever way you put it you have to make a decision, you have to make a stand. This book is all the evidence you need. I just hope and pray that your decision is the right one.

AIDAN HOUSE YEAR 11 CHAPEL SERVICE

SERMON – TOM WYNNE-LEWIS

READING – BEN WYNNE-LEWIS

Your happiness increases the happiness of everyone who knows you. We have so much. All we have is all we need. All we need is the awareness of how blessed we really are. Life...God's gift to us. We are born through God's powers. He sends us out into the big wide world to fight for ourselves, with freewill we choose our path and set about life in different ways. Everyone starts with a clean record, some people take risks, get caught and cop the punishment. On the other hand, most try to live life to the full, maximise their opportunities. However, and as unfair as it may seem, tragedies occur and it's not until then that people start to appreciate the life that they are given.

At Lindisfarne we have been given a wonderful opportunity. Our parents pay thousands of dollars to give us such an experience and we sometimes take it for granted. It is not until we see photos of African children starving, people dying simply because they cannot afford to buy food that we get a true indication of how fortunate we really are.

Another eye opener is loss of life. This theme is ever present in our lives and really wakes us up to reality. As long as we are alive, we cannot escape loss. Loss is part of real life. Today might be tough for you. You might not want the next moment to show itself, to reveal the twists and turns of life's mystery, But at least you have it. You have a choice as to how you will live this precious day. Don't wish it away! Don't waste it! Hold it close, cherish it. And above all, be grateful for it.

Death is a reality that we all face. It is going to happen regardless of the circumstances and that is out of our control. However, what we can control is how we live, before we die. How we make the most of opportunities, the risks we take and indeed the more risks you take the luckier you become. The only wound your soul never recovers from is regret.

Events like 9/11 really give us an appreciation for the life we have. Over 2000 people died because of the destructive mindset of a few people. It is yet another reality that we are faced with.

I was having dinner with a friend of my Dad's the other day. He is a tetraplegic, meaning he has no movement from his chest down. The cause of his paralysis was bodysurfing in knee high waves. To see first hand how devastating and life changing a small accident can be is a truly scary thought. I mean, to eat one piece of pizza takes him upwards of ten minutes. To get into bed takes 40 minutes. That is 40 minutes that he would have normally spent playing with his children outside, or participating in his own sporting activities. And for him now to be practically immobile is a very hard reality to face. He should have given up, ended his life, but he appreciates the fact that he is still alive and always keeps his hopes up that maybe one day he will be able to walk again.

On the way home it hit me that my life is so fortunate. I began to think about how much we complain about having to do a detention, having a bee sting. I mean this man has to wake up every morning knowing that he cannot walk and probably never will in his lifetime. I felt embarrassed for myself that I was so oblivious to the fact that there are people in this world that would kill to be in the position of anyone in this chapel today. It makes you think doesn't it. It makes you wonder why we are so judgemental of those in a lesser position than us. Why we are so hung up about not having that 3000 dollar laptop when there are people in our world, our country, who are wondering if they will live for just one more day.

Appreciation is as simple as saying thank you. Cherishing every morning and giving thanks for every evening. Smiling when you feel that things are just not going your way and considering those who do not have the luxury of a loving family, an amazing education and a blessed life.

So ask yourself that question I posed at the beginning of this sermon. Do you appreciate the life that you live?

CUTHBERT HOUSE YEAR 11 CHAPEL SERVICE

SERMON – DANIEL ELLINGHAM

READING – WILLIAM WALKER

Now believe it or not when I picture Jesus in my mind, I don't think of a window as the Bishop Mr John Bluck told us to do so at Sundays Chapel service. I do in fact, as he told us not to, picture Jesus as a Jewish man with a beard. From what I've been told, taught and probably partly made up myself, when I think of Jesus I think of a man, the most perfect man to ever walk the earth, who, as we are told was the son of God. Now ultimately we should all strive to be like this Jesus guy who it seemed never did any wrong. He spent his time travelling around healing and teaching people and even occasionally feeding the masses.

Yet in today's reading, here we have Jesus, the same man I was just speaking of, marching into a temple and pretty much losing the plot it would seem. He overturned tables and drove everyone out of the temple, yelling at them. At first look this sort of behaviour doesn't sound like the sort of thing I'd expect my idea of Jesus would do and even at a second look it still seemed rather odd, but then I thought, here Jesus is just showing us something. What he's showing us is that occasionally there is a time when you should get angry and let everyone around you know you're not happy but as far as I know this is the only time in the Bible where Jesus gets truly mad.

So I'm not saying that every time someone cheeses you off you should go and trash their house. What I mean is that there are times when it is appropriate to do things which at other times would be far from acceptable. Like Jesus, this may be very occasional. It is all a matter of doing the right thing at the right time and knowing that it is the right time regardless of what anyone else thinks. This matter of doing the right thing at the right time, can apply to so many everyday situations it's not funny.

I know that certain people have trouble knowing the right time for certain behaviour. In class for example, there are students who tend to irritate and annoy teachers and fellow students by not controlling themselves, as some people say. I think that these people just don't realise that there is another time for talking. Another example might be at a funeral, breaking out in hysterics or having a good belly cruncher, as Zander spoke about during the service earlier in the year. Now if you can remember Zander explained the importance of a good belly cruncher, but a funeral would quite obviously not be the appropriate time for one.

Now all these qualities that make up a good man are listed on the window behind me. To be labelled with these qualities I think it is once again a matter of doing the right or appropriate thing at any given time or situation.

So I lay down a challenge to all of you here today. I challenge everyone throughout this coming week to occasionally think about what you're doing and what you

might've just done and ask yourself whether you've done what you think is right. Like I said it doesn't matter what others are saying or doing, you make the call whether it's right. If we all do this I'm sure we'll be heading in the right direction to becoming good men, because we're not there yet, I don't think.

Now one day, I don't know, in twenty maybe thirty years time, that brand new window behind me, will be broken somehow and when they make a new window I want to be up there. I want all of you to want to be up there with me but that will only happen when we have become good men.

DURHAM HOUSE YEAR 11 CHAPEL SERVICE ***SERMON – GEORGE MACKIE***

Bobby was getting cold sitting out in his backyard in the snow. Bobby didn't wear boots; he didn't like them and anyway he didn't own any. The thin sneakers he wore had a few holes in them and they did a poor job of keeping out the cold. Bobby had been in his backyard for about an hour already. And, try as he might, he could not come up with an idea for his mother's Christmas present. He shook his head as he thought, "this is useless, even if I do come up with an idea, I don't have any money to spend". Ever since his father had passed away three years ago, the family of five had struggled. It wasn't because his mother didn't care, or try, there just never seemed to be enough. She worked nights at the hospital, but the small wage that she was earning could only be stretched so far.

What the family lacked in money and material things they more than made up for in love and family unity. Bobby had two older and one younger sister who ran the household in their mother's absence. Three of his sisters had already made beautiful gifts for their mother. Somehow it just wasn't fair. Here it was Christmas Eve already and he had nothing. Wiping a tear from his eye, Bobby kicked the snow and started to walk down to the street where the shops and stores were.

It wasn't easy being six without a father, especially when he needed a man to talk to. Bobby walked from shop to shop looking into each decorated window. Everything seemed so beautiful and so out of reach. It was starting to get dark and Bobby reluctantly turned to walk home when suddenly his eyes caught the glimmer of the setting sun's rays reflecting off something along the curb. He reached down and discovered a shiny dime. Never before has anyone felt as wealthy as Bobby felt that moment. As he held his new found treasure, warmth spread throughout his entire body and he walked into the first store he saw. His excitement soon turned cold when the salesperson told him that he couldn't buy anything with only a dime. He noticed a flower shop and went inside to wait in line. When the shop owner asked if he could help him, Bobby presented the dime and asked of he could buy one flower for his mother's Christmas gift. The shop owner looked at Bobby and his ten cent offering. Then he put his hand on Bobby's shoulder and said to him, "You just wait here and I'll see what I can do for you".

As Bobby waited he looked at the beautiful flowers and even though he was a boy, he could see why mothers and girls liked flowers. The sound of the door closing as the last customer left jolted Bobby back to reality. All alone in the shop, Bobby began to feel alone and afraid. Suddenly the shop owner came out and moved the counter. There, before Bobby's eyes lay twelve long-stem, red roses with leaves of green and tiny white flowers all tied together with a big silver bow. Bobby's heart sank as the owner picked them up and placed them neatly into a long box. "That will be ten cents

young man”, the shop owner said, reaching out his hand for the dime. Slowly, Bobby moved his hand to give the man his dime. Could this be true?. No one else would give him a thing for a dime! Sensing the boy’s reluctance, the shop owner added “I just happened to have some roses on sale for ten cents a dozen. Would you like them?” This time Bobby did not hesitate and when the man placed the long box into his hands, he knew it was true. Walking out the door that the owner was holding open for Bobby he heard the shop keeper say “Merry Christmas, son”.

In the story just shared with us, Bobby is a young boy out on a limb. He wanted to buy a present but had no money. He could have easily said “Mum doesn’t need a present, she’ll live”. However, what Bobby did do showed great character. For Bobby to have the guts to go into a shop with ten cents and try to buy a present was truly amazing as he would have been laughed at like all the other shop owners. That is why, for the florist to see how much this present meant to Bobby, and go out of his way to make sure that he truly was going to have a great Christmas present for his Mum shows great character also. He could’ve been like all the other shop owners and just laughed at this poor boy who was trying to buy something for 10 cents.

It’s interesting to think that many of us in this room, if we were walking along the footpath would see a 10 cent coin and keep walking, as if it meant nothing. For Bobby however, finding 10 cents on the ground meant he was able to get his Mum a Christmas present, which for him was the most important thing he could have done.

I’ll lay down a challenge for you all now. Next time you’re walking along the footpath and you see a 10 cent piece on the ground, pick it up. You never know what miracles could eventuate from it.

OSWALD HOUSE YEAR 11 CHAPEL SERVICE
SERMON – ABRAHAM ROPITINI
READING – CALUM IRONSIDE

About a week ago I was looking through some books I found under my bed. They had been forgotten about for some time and I was familiarising myself with their contents. I came across a story that seemed vaguely familiar in one of the books and I read it silently to myself. It goes something like this:

Everyone in the neighbourhood knew who Ugly was. Ugly was the resident tom cat. Ugly loved three things in this world. Children, eating garbage, and shall we say, love. The combination of these things, combined with a life spent outside had had their effect on Ugly. To start off with he had only one eye and where the other should have been there was a gaping hole. He was also missing his ear on the same side, his left foot had appeared to have been badly broken at one time and had healed at an unnatural angle making him look like he was always turning a corner. His tail had long ago been lost, leaving only the smallest stub which he would constantly jerk and twitch.

Every time someone saw Ugly there was the same reaction. “That’s the UGLIEST cat I have ever seen!”. All the children were warned not to touch him. The adults threw rocks at him, hosed him down and squirted him when he tried to come into their homes or they shut his paws in the door when he would not leave. Ugly always had the same reaction. If you turned the hose on him he would stand there, getting soaked, until you gave up and quit. If you threw things at him he would curl his lanky body around your feet in forgiveness. Whenever he spied children he would come running, meowing frantically and bump his head against their hands, begging for their

love. If ever you picked him up he would immediately begin suckling on your shirt, ears or whatever he could find.

One day Ugly shared his love with the neighbour's huskies. They did not respond kindly and Ugly was badly mauled. From my kitchen I could hear his screams and I tried to rush to his aid. By the time I got to where he was lying he was in a mangled heap in the driveway. It was apparent that Ugly's sad life was almost at an end. Ugly lay in a wet circle, his back legs and lower back twisted grossly out of shape and a gaping hole in the white strip of fur that ran down his front. As I picked him up and tried to carry him home I could hear him wheezing and gasping. I could feel him struggling and thought I must have been hurting him terribly.

Then I felt a familiar tugging, sucking sensation on my ear. Ugly, in so much pain and suffering, obviously dying, was trying to suckle my ear. I pulled him closer to me and he bumped the palm of my hand with his head, then turned his one golden eye towards me and I could hear the distinct sound of purring.

Even in great pain, that ugly battle-scarred cat was asking only for a little affection, perhaps some compassion. At that moment I thought Ugly was the most beautiful, loving creature I had ever seen. Never once did he try to bite me or scratch me or even try to get away from me or struggle in any way. Ugly just looked up at me, completely trusting in me to relieve his pain. He died in my arms before I could get inside but I sat and held him for a long time afterwards, thinking about how one scarred, deformed little stray could alter my opinion about what it means to have true pureness of spirit, to love so totally and truly. To love even at the worst possible time, knowing that there is nothing to gain in return.

When I was finished reading this, I sat for a while and thought and realised that this story, that Ugly, was basically Christianity in a nutshell. And that led me to feel somewhat ashamed. Ashamed of the way Christianity is viewed today. The truth is that we are losing our grasp on what it means to be a Christian. Our values, our virtues and our beliefs are becoming trivialised by petty issues that detract from the true meaning of being a Christian.

It matters not, for example, whether you view Jesus as being our saviour and redeemer, the son of God, or whether you simply see a Jewish man with a beard. Having Jesus depicted in our new stained glass window is neither here nor there when it comes to viewing Christianity.

When thinking of Christianity I don't think it necessary to think of a Pope or an Archbishop, a set of beliefs to be viewed in black and white or a stained glass window. I think we need to get a grasp of what Christianity stands for and upholds. They are many of the qualities shown by the Ugly cat. Purity of spirit, compassion, affection, unconditional love, forgiveness and the list goes on. Ugly taught me more about what it means to be a Christian than a thousand books, lectures, talk-shows or sermons ever could. For that I will always be thankful. Many people want to be richer, more successful, well liked and beautiful, but me, I will always try to be Ugly.

AIDAN HOUSE YEAR 10 CHAPEL SERVICE

SERMON – MICHAEL ENGLISH

READING – JAMES YULE

I believe that the key part of that reading, that James has just shared with us, was the very last verse. “And you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved”. Endurance, persistence, two key words in all of our lives. Words that will allow us to lead good, successful and fulfilling lives.

What about this?. Your team gets the Saturday draw. You’re up against the team that last time you lost to. You’re up against a team that you know you should have beaten, and not only you know, but everybody else knows you should have beaten them. You go home and when you get into your bed and you turn off the light, you start thinking. You start thinking of what it was that you could have done better in that game, what you could have done to change the outcome. You come up with something, something that you could have done, something like passing the ball that time when you made a break away but then someone tackled you. You lost the ball and the opportunity was gone. You focus on that little passage of play and you set yourself a little mental goal. Next time when I get a break away I am going to look for support and not lose the ball.

Now that you have got your goal, even a goal as small as that, you have to persist with, stick to it and carry it out. There is no point in sitting down and thinking about what you are going to do if you’re not going to do it. You have to practice what you preach. Quite often people set themselves up for these big goals that they are wanting to achieve at that time and because it’s so big they don’t know when to start and if they do start, they often give up. If you can achieve ten or so small little goals every two or three weeks you are going to be far better off than setting yourself a bigger goal that you are planning to achieve over four or five months and then when you realise that after a month you have not done anything towards that goal you then give up.

Persist in achieving little things in your life. Aim to perfect your kick, aim to visit your grandparents once every week, aim to do a little better in class than what you did last year, aim to practice playing your guitar every night. Pretty soon you will realise that you will have achieved a lot more than you expected. Soon you will be leading that good, successful and fulfilling life. “He who endures to the end shall be saved”.

CUTHBERT HOUSE YEAR 10 CHAPEL SERVICE

SERMON- REID BOYDEN

READING – HENRY HUNTER

The good man has been talked about quite a bit lately and who the ultimate good man is. But what I see reoccurring throughout all the good man talks and sermons is not who but his attributes and attitude. I think one of the key ones is respect. In the reading Henry shared with us today we hear of yet another letter from Paul to the Ephesians. This time Paul focussed on respect.

Respect, I think, is not something you get but something you earn. “Give respect to someone and it shall be given to you”. This is a quote from Anton who I think is one of the most respected people in New Zealand.

Tana Umanga played for 14 years for Wellington. Racked up 100 games so when he left Ma Nonu the man to take over his spot vowed to not wear the number 13 jersey

for the rest of the season as a sign of respect. “Why are you doing this?”, three reporters asked Nonu, “Because even when I started and ‘till this day Tana respected my views, even if they were stupid”.

That, I think, is an attribute every good man must have. The ability to give respect in order to receive it. No matter how old or young, how important or unimportant, you are still to give respect because then that person will remember and respect you back. So I challenge you this week, show respect for someone by perhaps giving them that space in the queue or letting them speak their point and just see what happens.

DURHAM HOUSE YEAR 10 CHAPEL SERVICE

SERMON – ANTHONY LAI

READING – TE AREPA HARRISON

That song that was just played was an excerpt from ‘Butterflies and Hurricanes’ by the band Muse from their album ‘Absolution’.

If you listen closely to the lyrics of the song they are extremely inspiring. They challenge you to be great, to change the world in ways no one has before. Being great is one of the most fascinating things of this world. We can’t give an exact recipe for it yet we can learn from the examples of others, great and not so great. In the reading that has just been shared today, Gideon, a humble man has been given the mighty task of delivering the Israelites from the hands of their oppressive enemies. Through strategic cunning and the aid of the Lord, Gideon succeeds in this daunting task, later on, crushing the Midianite soldiers that numbered well over 10,000 with an army of only 300.

It was Gideon’s time to step up and lead! His time to become great!. But greatness comes in many different forms and varieties, not always for the better. Hitler was a man considered great. Stalin was and so was Pol Pot. It seems that the theme this time for the school is the concept of the good man and so it should be. Our stained glass window immortalises four such men. However, to be a good man and to be a great man is something different. Yet to be a great man that is loved and remembered you must also be good.

To be a good man, I believe, it is a concept of character. You must have traits that qualify you as a good man.

However, to be a great man, it is not character, as many great men were flawed in character, but the immensity of their feats. Even Gideon himself had severe flaws in character but still became great for only a short time.

Again let us use the example of the stained glass window. The four men were good men, yes?. But there are many good men. Why these and no one else? I mean, why didn’t we put Tyne Stafford up here or another student? There are many good men. However these people to be chosen were not just good men, but GREAT men! Men that we all know! If I went to another country and asked them, “Do you know Tyne Stafford?”, chances are they wouldn’t.

A great man therefore, a GOOD great man, is one that is a step up from a good man. It is not just through the immensity of his character, but also the immensity of his feats and his character that shines through his feats. Without the traits of a good man, as well as morality, greatness is fleeting. Gideon himself as I have said, was

flawed in character and morals and because of this he made poor decisions that severely threatened the future of Israel.

Greatness in itself is very rare. Undoubtedly less than 10% of you, likely even less, will become great, and the great I'm talking about is the kind of greatness that few have achieved, the kind that can completely change people's lives and their views and perspectives on a large scale and to inspire and lead. This cannot be learned, but it is born into some people. Some people were born to lead and others to follow. But I ask you, when that time comes, what will you do? Will you flounder it, like many others have? Or will you grasp the opportunity and use it to make a positive difference in this ludicrous world today? It is not what kind of potential we have. We all have potential but not very many people use it for the benefit of others. If greatness was meant for all of us, we should use that to help others.

OSWALD HOUSE YEAR 10 CHAPEL SERVICE

SERMON – BRETT SCEATS

READING – MONTY MORGAN

From the reading Monty has just shared with us it stresses the importance of living a good life and intending to do good for most of your life. In the first 3 sentences of the reading Paul says "Now that you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, steadfastness, my persecutions and my suffering of the things that have happened to me. What persecutions I endured!. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them".

The only reason that the Lord Jesus forgave Paul of his persecutions was because of the good things Paul had done and served for in his lifetime. If Paul had not taught, loved and had faith he would have not been rescued from his persecutors. This reminds me a lot of a story my Grandma once told me. It was about 5 people and it went like this.

Sandra was an older woman around 60 years of age, and was a well respected figure in a community of many other people. She often helped younger children out with work and taught them how to behave. Sandra would take food to the hospital to kids who were distressed or in times of need. One day however, the well respected Sandra took part in a burglary of a nuclear power plant as she believed that it was harming innocent people. Sandra and 4 others broke into the plant and ruined valuable apparatus and upset experiments, stole money and dumbest of all, she was caught on camera.

Three months later Sandra and the four others appeared in front of a local court and they were declared guilty. As the judge went through the charges he said, "Bob Murray, five years also imprisonment for invasion of property, Kurt Livingstone, five years also imprisonment, for private violation and destroying personal gear". "Riwi losa, seven years repeated violation of the law including assault, personal invasion and damaging other items". Next came Sandra. As the judge looked at Sandra, he paused and thoughts and memories filled his mind, of the good things she had done for the community. He stuttered and said "Sandra Flynn, 10 hours community service, guilty by association to a break-in".

Sandra was excused from all her charges apart from the 10 hours community service which is pretty minimal compared to what the others got. This was solely because Sandra had built up trust of the judge and had established a name of being helpful and righteous. She was seen as a leader and for this she was let off. Others who

had never done anything for the community and hadn't helped or were caring, received the maximum punishment for their convictions

I hope that all of you here today will be like Sandra and Paul from today's reading and establish a name for yourselves by building trust around the school, by being trustworthy, caring, patient and helpful to others. And that one day when you are in need of help, to get yourself out, that you will be relented upon as Jesus let Paul off and as the judge was easy on Sandra.

AIDAN HOUSE YEAR 9 CHAPEL SERVICE

SERMON – ALEX WINSTANLEY

READING – SCOTT VAN HEERDEN

Jesus intended this parable to demonstrate the Christian message for us to aspire to be magnanimous, charitable, unselfish and non-judgemental. The good Samaritan conducted himself with great dignity and generosity towards a person whom he had no affinity toward. Samaritans were the inhabitants of Samaria, and were disliked by the Jews. In this excerpt from Luke's Gospel, Jesus uses a parable to show that qualities such as compassion and neighbourliness, should be shown regardless of geographical or racial and cultural divisions.

Obviously Jesus used this parable to instil into people a code of practice to what he perceived to be the correct code of conduct that people should adopt and apply towards people who are less fortunate than them.

But now let's look at this from another angle. What if the story was true? There would be some aspects we should take into consideration. For example, the Priest may have had good reason for not assisting the injured man. The Priest may have had an encounter with a thief pretending to be injured who held him at knife point and left him the same way as the thieves had left this man. The Priest may also have followed or have a belief that stopped him from helping the man. He may have thought of the popular saying – curiosity killed the cat – or the equivalent in biblical time. Either way, we should still give the Priest the same respect as we give the good Samaritan. We should still respect the priest's beliefs and motives and views.

Today people tend not to adhere to these old prescribed codes of the Bible because of fear and political correctness. Sadly, they are not prepared to put their neck on the line to help people, so it remains the same as in biblical times. And in modern times there appears to be less of those whom we can regard as heroes, except in fiction on the TV and movie screen, such as Superman. People, who regardless of the personal risks to themselves, put the needs of others first and who could be described as going beyond the call of duty.

CUTHBERT HOUSE YEAR 9 CHAPEL SERVICE

SERMON – BRYDEN GUNN

When God said, "Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground", he meant have control of everything around you and what it does to you as well. Don't let yourself lose control of what

happens as God helps those who help themselves. When bad things happen to people they tend to blame someone. It is really quite a natural thing to do.

Let's think of a situation; there's a young teenager named Sam. He has a sister called Sarah. At their house there is only one stereo. Sam is into his recent pop rock music. But his sister is into more meaningful music. It is very natural for their tastes in music to clash. Sam comes home from school and Sarah is listening to a nice calm song and what happens? An argument starts between them about how each other should be able to listen to their own music. So at the end of the day Sam wants his music played and he wants that because he enjoys it. So essentially he wants enjoyment and he blames Sarah for stopping him getting that. Also Sarah wants her music and she wants that because she enjoys it. So she wants enjoyment as well. She blames Sam for stopping her from getting it. So a whole lot of blame and hate is created and nothing is achieved.

When God created us he made us wanting and needing the same things but he still intended us to be different, so he made us get those things in different ways. There is no chance of achieving world peace until people realise that the only difference between man and man is the way that they get what they want and what they need. Think of someone in your life that you had a disagreement with or an argument with or something and say to yourself, like me, this person wants happiness and salvation in their life. This makes you realise that there is no reason to hate somebody because it doesn't get you anywhere.

In a Thornton Wilder play called 'Skin of our Teeth' there is a character named Antrobus and he is talking to his son Henry and he is a very troubled, hateful person. This family has just been through a war and Antrobus said to Henry, "It's easier to fight you than to live with you". I think that reflects on the world today. Schools have to fight against students, bosses have to fight against employees, and countries have to fight against terrorism.

Antrobus also says to Henry, "You and I want the same thing but until you think of it that everyone has a right to you are my deadly". They both wanted freedom and liberty but if you have to fight for peace it's not worth it. Mother Teresa said, "If there's an anti-war rally, don't invite me. If there's a pro peace rally, I'm coming". If you fight against war, it doesn't create peace. We have finally met the enemy and that is us.

Quote: 'If you look closely you can see yourself in the reflection of your enemy'.

DURHAM HOUSE YEAR 9 CHAPEL SERVICE ***SERMON – WAKA SMIT***

God is a very compassionate icon and he wants the very best for the world. In this reading he is a very harsh figurehead, wanting to delete the flaws in his structure he has made. Although God is harsh, his motive is correct as he is attempting to rid the world of evil in which to make our lives better.

There once was a little boy named Tommy and every day after kindergarten Tommy would go out to his backyard and play with his building block set, trying to make a tower. Every day he put one or two more blocks on his tower. Gradually he notices flaws and little breakages in his tower. Blocks threatening the survival of others. He decided the only way to make amends to this is by destroying his creation and keep the best blocks so he could use them again and start again with these good blocks.

In this story Tommy is the God figure, the person who controls everything and he realises to help future generations he needs to make changes to the current one. Noah was charismatic and consistent as he was pressured by others to move on in his life. His persistence and what he believed in, carried him through the difficult times.

A few movies have tried to replicate this, for example V for Vendetta. V is a person who has been abused and has witnessed the evil of the government. While the government uses their power against its' people so V makes amends and creates a new beginning for England.

God notices the evil and dictatorship in our world. The people abusing the power given to them. Many famous icons, such as Saddam Hussein and Adolf Hitler have enticed and rewarded their people, then turned on their people in hope of riches and world domination. Instead of these people being the middle blocks to the tower, they are the top ones, the ones in power. Yet if the bottom and middle blocks fall under pressure the entire top block will come down with them, as in V for Vendetta, stopping abusive leadership, is the only way to go about this. Soon God will merely knock off the top blokes.

God is saying to us that we must give up our evil and selfish ways. Noah had great faith in his Lord God. He waited six hundred years before the flood finally came. This extreme faith in God carried him through the many years and the flood itself. Despite the many years he waited, Noah still had faith that God would come. Noah taught us a lesson in the reading, that faith in God will carry us through the years ahead of us. No matter what other people say to put us down, have faith in the Lord as he will show us through, just like he did for Noah. If we listen to our Lord God he will reward us in Heaven.

OSWALD HOUSE YEAR 9 CHAPEL SERVICE

SERMON – SAM PARKES

READING – MOKOIA HUATA

In the reading that Mokoia shared with us, it tells us “Whoever is faithful in very little is faithful also in much”, this means something like that if you do something like opening a door for someone you may think that it is little and insignificant. On the other hand, it says “whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much”. This means something like that if you said to a senior something bad and they thought it was bad. It was bad but you thought it was a little thing, they would still despise you, just because you said a little comment.

This is just like being loyal to them if you were loyal and did not make the comment but you opened the door for them, then they would like you in return. This is mentioned later in the reading that ‘No slave can serve two masters, because the slave will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth’.

This happens in every day life for example you have to serve and be loyal to your parents no matter what. They are your other God, they are your other creator and they are the ones you obey.

Another way you can practice loyalty is with your friends and I will give a demonstration: First I need two volunteers. In this demonstration, Jack Williams is loyal to me and to Jack Jardine because we are loyal to Jack to perform this back flip successfully. Loyalty is a key component when in a team such as this. Without it no one could trust or be loyal to anyone and the project would fail. We were loyal to Jack to do the back flip and not injure himself. Jack ended up having trust in me and in Jack, so if you are loyal to someone then it would double and transform into trust as well.

I'd like to share with you a song from Dave Dobbin called loyal:
'And call me loyal – I'll say you're loyal too.
I know you're loyal, I feel your loyal truth.
Call me loyal, I'll hold you loyal too,
And we are loyal, keep it that way.....

In this chorus, to me, Dave is trying to make a promise to a friend that no matter what, we will always be loyal to each other. This little passage can mean a lot. If you just listen carefully you could learn that we all should be loyal. If you find it difficult to be loyal then find some inspiration some other way like this, through a song.

Also another thing that should be recognised is –
Out in battle, flung far and used.
Where does allegiance lie?
Sometimes when all of your hopes, and all of your dreams,
Are too much to value in one moment.
And all of us anxious, but why hurry love?
History's here and now.
Oh and why are you waiting – waiting for what?
The history of some love?
This could mean a lot of things. The line that means the most to me, about the allegiance of two people coming back from a hard time, in the line –
Out of the battle, flung far and used.
And they were apart, hence the line: 'Oh why are you waiting – waiting for what?'. It is all saying, to come back from the battle and just be together. That's the most important thing of all.

I leave you now with a challenge, that when you go you should always be loyal to your parents by following what they say and need you to do and be loyal to them no matter what. Also, be loyal to your mates following what they say and what they need you to do and be loyal to them no matter what.

STAFF CHAPEL – TERM 4

SERMON – MR BEN LE HEUX

Around this time each year with the seniors gone and junior exams out of the way I find it important to look back over the year and assess my relationship with my friends and family and those with whom I work. As we are human, it's impossible to go throughout a year without being hurt or offended by something that someone said or did and it is equally impossible to not have offended others. While most people quickly forget about what has been done to them others hold grudges, never

forgiving or forgetting things that have been done wrong to them, but also ironically forgetting that they too, have offended others, and equally need forgiveness.

The reading that you have just heard made it very clear how important forgiveness is in our lives, especially the fact that God will not forgive us if we do not first forgive others. One of the best examples of this happening in recent history is through the life of Nelson Mandela, who was called a terrorist by the Apartheid government in South Africa for the things that he did against this racist state, yet Mandela understood that if he was to find forgiveness for what he did, he had to first forgive the Apartheid government for what they had done to the black people.

Apartheid or 'separateness' was the system of racial segregation in South Africa between 1948 and 1994 where the white government committed significant human rights abuses against its black, coloured and Asian populations.

Humiliating laws were put in place and enforced by an often excessively violent police and military:

- White and non-whites were forbidden to marry.
- Public transportation, public restrooms and restaurants were separated by race.
- Blacks had to carry government issued ID all the time or suffer immediate imprisonment.
- 3.5 million blacks were forced onto 13% of the poorest land in South Africa.
- Some jobs were for whites only.

Protests against these racist laws led to brutal retaliations from the police, one of the most notorious being the Sharpeville Massacre in 1960 where blacks had gathered to peacefully protest against the carrying of ID cards. Police shot and killed 69 in the back as they ran away, wounding 186 others.

Such oppression led many people to rise up against the government at first peacefully but then through armed violence when non-violent measures had little effect. The lawyer Nelson Mandela was such a man as he represented many blacks who broke the racist laws imposed by the government. When little change happened in the government he became a prominent leader in the African National Congress, an organisation committed to opposing Apartheid. Furthermore, he led the military wing of the ANC and carried out attacks on communications and governmental installations.

Mandela was captured in 1962 and imprisoned for life on Robben Island where he remained for 27 years, and was not released until after his 71st birthday.

While in prison,

- Mandela's cell on Robben Island, an old leper colony, measured two square meters and had only one small barred window. He slept on the floor on a straw mat and had to use a bucket for a toilet.
- He did hard labor in the island's lime quarry digging and crushing blocks of limestone to a fine powder. He was only allowed one visit from his wife every six months and did not see his two youngest daughters for ten years.
- He could only receive and write one letter every six months and these were often made unreadable by the prison censors.

- His wife was also in prison and he had no way of knowing how she was or who was looking after their children.
- He contracted tuberculosis in prison and was not able to attend the funerals of his mother who died of a heart attack and his twenty-five year old son who died in a car accident. As a result of working in the lime quarry with no eye protection he had to undergo surgery to restore the tear ducts of his chronically inflamed eyes.

These horrendous conditions could have made Mandela become bitter and twisted but he chose not to, but did his best to understand the Afrikaners' perspective and learnt Afrikaans, something that no black then would willingly want to do. He held classes teaching people to read and write equipping them for a better future and gave lectures on history and political science, making his fellow prisoners aware of the freedoms experienced by people in other countries.

Once he was released in 1990 and eventually elected as South Africa's first black president in 2004, Mandela did not go out to seek revenge on those who set up the Apartheid regime or who caused him so much pain and suffering while he was in prison; but offered them forgiveness. When he finally left prison after twenty-seven years he embraced and forgave his prison guards. While he was in prison, the man who was the architect of apartheid, Hendrik Verwoerd, died. When Mandela was finally released, one of the first people he visited was Verwoerd's widow, Betsie, again offering forgiveness rather than seeking revenge.

He set up the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* in 1995 to record cases where human rights were violated and to grant amnesty to those who admitted their guilt. No side was exempt from appearing before the commission with both blacks and whites being represented and people from Mandela's own ANC who had committed human rights crimes were also held accountable for their actions.

The way that South Africa has dealt with its past has been humane and forgiving under the leadership of Mandela. Often when a government changes in such a manner there are widespread trials and bloodthirsty executions as the victors seek revenge on defeated tyrants as in the recent gruesome executions of Saddam Hussein and his advisors. Mandela, however, not only extended his forgiveness to the whites but rewrote the South African Constitution, forever protecting the minority peoples of Africa against discrimination, including the whites.

Putting his words into action, Mandela encouraged blacks to get behind and support the previously hated Springboks, who once were an international symbol of Apartheid, in supporting them during the 1995 Rugby World Cup. A major step towards the blacks forgiving the whites was taken when the Springboks won over New Zealand and Mandela, who wore a Springbok's jersey, presented the trophy to the captain who was an Afrikaner. Many blacks and whites saw this symbolic gesture as a major step towards the nation's forgiveness and final reconciliation.

Christianity and Christ's teachings on forgiveness provided the background to Mandela's commitment to forgive all the wrongs that had been done to the black people in South Africa. As the government did not fund black schools Christian missionaries and churches taught the black people, basing their education on the love and compassion of Christ and how true peace can only be achieved through the forgiveness of others. Mandela maintains that the only way the injuries of the blacks

from centuries of slavery and colonialism can be healed is through the forgiveness that Christ modeled, not through revenge.

The Bible's teachings on forgiveness are very clear as we heard in the reading. The master forgave the servant his debt but only on the condition that the servant forgave others as well. In the Lord's Prayer we pray to God to "forgive us our sins as we *forgive the sins of others.*" Forgiveness from God therefore has strings attached as he will only forgive our sins if we forgive those of others. Mandela knew that the only way forward for South Africa was through a universal policy of forgiveness as modeled by Christ. Horrendous atrocities were committed by both black and white people during the Apartheid era so forgiveness was the only option to prevent widespread retribution and a civil war breaking out.

I close this sermon now by returning to the last words of Christ on the cross. Christ, the ultimate model for all behavior, had come to earth as a messenger from God to offer forgiveness for the sins of us all. Man rejected his message and murdered him, yet while he hung on the cross, the last words that he spoke were to forgive those who had so brutally killed him.