

Wholeness

Quarterly World Digest of Christian Healing

Founded 1957.

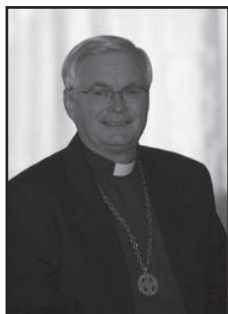
P.O. Box 16099, Hamilton, New Zealand.

Gratis.

FIRST PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER

The Ven. Larry Mitchell, Sharing November 2008.

James tells us that, "the 2prayer of faith will save (or heal) the sick." From Jesus' example we can see that everything we do in the Christian life, particularly ministering healing, must be grounded and rooted in prayer. Therefore we need to understand what prayer is, what prayer is not, and how prayer works. Like the disciples, we need to be taught how to pray. Otherwise we may be found treating



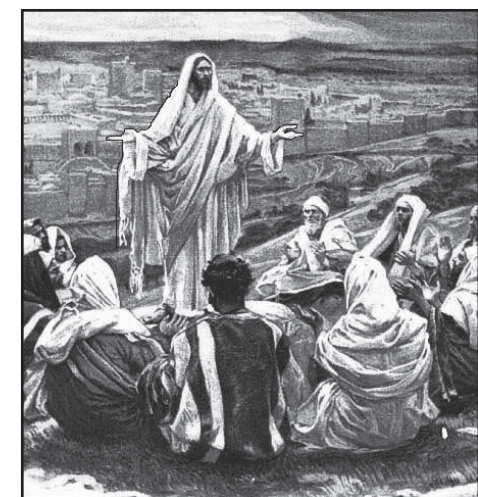
Ven. Larry Mitchell

God as a benevolent genie, and prayer as a request for the granting of our wishes; in which case we will inevitably become disappointed and discouraged with the answers we receive. To approach prayer with the expectation that if we rub the magic lamp in the right way, and do the right things, then God can be persuaded to do what we want Him to do, is nothing but trying to manipulate and control the will of God. **We don't have to persuade God to heal us; it is in his divine will to do so. We just need to learn to cooperate with his plan!**

The Lord's Prayer is of course a complete prayer in itself, but to treat it as just an invocation to be rattled off when needed is to miss the gold mine that we have in this short but perfect model for all prayer. Luke's version (11:1-13) has five brief petitions.

The first two focus our attention on God and the last three lift up to God our basic human needs of nourishment, forgiveness, protection and healing.

When we pray, "Our Father, hallowed be your Name," we begin by taking the attention off ourselves and setting it where it should be, on the living God, the very source of our existence. When we pray, "Your kingdom come", we are telling ourselves and



God that we are seeking His will and not our own. Having this heart is the key if we are to indeed receive.

When we pray, "Give us each day our daily bread," we are acknowledging that it is only God who can supply us with all that is required to sustain our life. We are saying to ourselves and to God that we trust him to supply us with what we need, not with what we want.

When we pray, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those that sin against us," we are recognizing our natural state of sinfulness. We don't know everything, and we sometimes innocently and sometimes purposely make wrong decisions that affect both our relationship with God and with others. We come before God to ask for forgiveness. But in order to receive that forgiveness we pray that we will have the courage and strength to forgive those who hurt us or sin against us. God forgives us to the extent that we forgive others; again an essential component to praying effectively for healing and wholeness.

Finally, when we pray, "Lead us not into temptation," we are recognizing our need for protection and are acknowledging our vulnerability to the powers of evil and darkness. It is easy for us to be swept away by the magnetism of those influences because our own strength is powerless over them. To hold strong we need to submit fully to God, asking for and accepting protection from those forces. Praying for deliverance is very much a part of receiving healing in body, mind and spirit.

Prayer is God's gift to us; the most wonderful of gifts, which when used under the anointing of the Holy Spirit will lead us ever closer in our relationship with God and with one another. What more could we ask for!? When we pray for healing, or indeed for anything, it is essential to first invite God to exercise His will in our lives, and to believe that it is God's good pleasure to bless us. In making our petition from this point of faith we will see the fulfilment of 1 John 5.14, 15, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him."

Let us ask, let us receive.



From the Editor

That I May Know Him

"... Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." (Luke 5.16) More specifically, "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." (Mark 1.35) In those quiet places Jesus would not only be refreshed, but the Father could impart to him wisdom, knowledge and power. Jesus testified to that when he told his disciples, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." (John 4.32) If the Son of God needed to pray how much more do we, sinners that we are.

Jesus fasted for 40 days, and returned in the power of the spirit. Can you imagine the effect upon the world if every Christian fasted for 40 days? How dynamic would God's kingdom be from that point forward! Surely after that all flesh would see the fulfilment of Jesus' words, "Greater things than these will you do!" If we would know the real Jesus, the one after whom Paul hungered, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection ...", then how can we not commit ourselves to one day of fasting, one hour of prayer, one hour of bible reading?

Without a cornerstone of prayer there will surely be times when we will miss the mark, just like Martha in Luke 10. It is so easy to become preoccupied with serving. Without realising it we can be sincerely intent upon attending meetings, undertaking ministry and even doing our utmost to love others, while all the time neglecting to "do the will of him who sent me". We will become exhausted, even disillusioned, if we are continually "doing" for God rather than "being" with God. He calls us to repentance, to prayer, to meditation not for His benefit, but for ours, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11.23)

Jesus said an extraordinary thing (one of many) when he foretold his response to those who will one day say, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name ... and perform many miracles?" Then I will tell them plainly, "I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!" (Matthew 7.22, 23) We can be left then in no doubt that the number one priority in our life is to know Jesus. But how? By reading the word of God, through prayer and by meditation. **These things come first, and then comes the service.** We know that "faith without works is dead" (James 2.20), but it's no less true that works undertaken in our own strength have absolutely no eternal value.

What joy awaits those who are hearers and doers of Jeremiah 29:13, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Amen.

"Patience is not the ability to wait, but the grace to keep a good attitude while waiting."
Anonymous

Friendship

Encouragement

Love

Laughter

Openness

Wisdom

Support

Harmony

Inspiration

Peace

FELLOWSHIP!

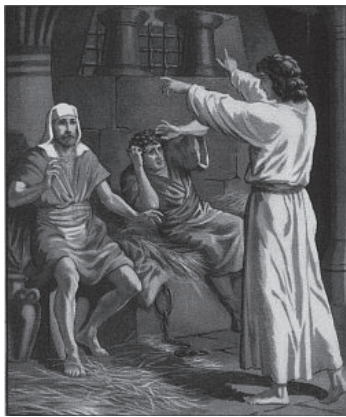
Whitiora Bible Church, Hamilton, NZ

Does Wholeness have a need?

WHAT'S YOUR DREAM?

"The butler and the baker of the king... had a dream..." (Genesis 40.5)

When you have a dream you must cultivate the companionship of other dreamers. As a young man Joseph had the most astounding dreams. Much later, through interpreting those of the butler and the baker, Joseph was introduced to Pharaoh, who had one of his own, one that changed Joseph's life, not to mention leading to the saving of much of the ancient world. So likewise, build relationships with people who also have a dream, who strengthen your faith and shape you into the right person. "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." (Proverbs 27.17)



For dreams to be realised you must be both forgetful and fruitful. Your willingness to forgive and forget sets you free from the past; your willingness to try something new opens the door to the future. "... Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead." (Philippians 3.13) 'Forgetting' and 'reaching' call for sequential action: **forget, then reach!** What you refuse to

get over, you'll live under. What you refuse to forget, you'll drag like a ball and chain through life. 'But I've tried to forget and I can't.' God will help you! "Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: 'For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house.' And the name of the second he called Ephraim '... For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.'" (Genesis 41:51-52). Note the words 'God has caused.' God

can help you to get over it and move on! 'Does that mean I won't be able to recall the event?' No, that would be amnesia. What it means is that you won't want to recall it. God will give you the ability to reframe it, to glean wisdom from it, and to become successful through your victory over it.

"Word for Today" is written Bob Gass and is published by the Rhema Broadcasting Group Inc. A free copy of their daily devotional is available from PB 92636, Symonds St, Auckland 1150, New Zealand.

Pray For The Prodigals

Intercessors for New Zealand

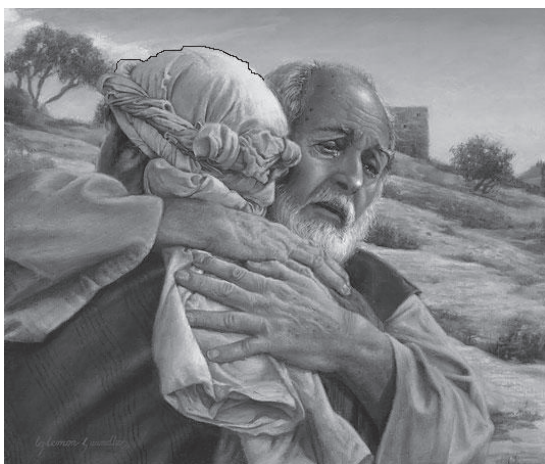
Prodigals are people who have fallen away from the right ways – the ways of God. We need to pray for all prodigal Christians – those who have known God and perhaps still do know Him, but have turned their backs on Him and His ways and are no longer walking with the Lord. Just like the prodigal son they are living in the pig pen instead of living with the King. Pray that the scales will be removed from their eyes, their minds and their hearts, and that they will turn from worldliness back to the Lord and follow Him ever so closely for the rest of their days.

Pray by name for those precious souls whom you know, especially family members. They may be the children of Christians – having been brought up in the ways of God, who know what it means to follow Christ, who know something of God's Word, the church and the Christian life, who have had a good Christian upbringing, but have chosen so unwisely not to follow the Lord. Pray for their repentance and salvation. Let God's words to Ezekiel (37.4, 5) be an inspiration for your prayers, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life.'"

"Being free to do what we want to do is being bound.

Being free to do what we don't want to do is liberty."

Rev. Bob Barnes, Hamilton, NZ



"Hope is faith shot into the future."

John Borman, Faith for Daily Living

GOD MADE ME WHOLE

*Elvie Dummiesny, Beacon Hill, Sydney.
Reprinted from Wholeness #100, February 1983*

At Easter 1972 I received a miracle healing through the power of the Holy Spirit. For 17 years I had suffered pain starting at the tail bone, then the back, hips, legs, arms and gradually all over. I also suffered from migraines, and I consulted many doctors, chiropractors and specialists. Many times I cried out to God for a doctor who could help me. Instead I was told that nothing could be done. I was told that within three months I would be back to have spurs cut off my back bone and then they would grow again. By that time I would have trouble sitting or lying down, and I would end up in a wheel chair.

As the migraines became worse I needed morphine to kill the pain. At times I would cry until I had no more tears left, saying, "Why should this happen to me?" I loved life and I loved my husband, home and family, and I was becoming so helpless. My sister Heather and her husband, Clive Job, who themselves found the Lord Jesus Christ two years before, came to me and asked if I would go to Dubbo to see Brother Ted Whitesell who had a healing gift. Heather said, "Come believing God will heal you." I replied, "If God can do it, I want Him to!"

In the hall that evening a young lady, Jenny Starr, sat beside me and every time the speaker said, "Jesus is here to heal you tonight!" she would sing out, "Hallelujah!" or "Praise the Lord, Glory to God!" and so on. I started to move away from her wondering what she was all about and why she was next to me! But see how God works, praise his wonderful name, when Brother Ted prayed for me all the pain left immediately. He said, "Lift your knees up!" and to my surprise I did. Previously the only way I could do that was with the help of my own hands. I asked about my migraine but he just waved saying, "Bye! You're healed!" I said, "Thanks!" but he replied, "Don't thank me, thank God!" That same evening I received the Baptism of The Holy Spirit, and I was set on fire for Jesus. I danced and sang, praise the Lord, and straight away He gave me Psalm 40 v3, "He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God." Truly, blessed is the man (and woman) who puts their trust in the Lord!

Pastor Phil Pringle wrote that: "Elvie's faith and prayers are a blessing to many and that she is free of all physical difficulties she experienced before her healing."

PEACE, PERFECT PEACE

Bishop R.H. Bickersteth, 1825-1906. Hymn 468, English Hymnal

*Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin?
The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.*

*Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties pressed?
To do the will of Jesus, this is rest.*

*Peace, perfect peace, with sorrows surging round?
On Jesus' bosom nought but calm is found.*

*Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far away?
In Jesus' keeping we are safe and they.*

*Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown?
Jesus we know, and he is on the throne.*

*Peace, perfect peace, death shadowing us and ours?
Jesus has vanquished death and all its powers.*

*It is enough; earth's struggles soon shall cease,
And Jesus call us to heaven's perfect peace.*

Is there a way you can help Wholeness?

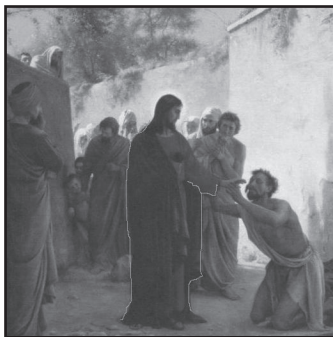
ORDER OF ST. LUKE

For all OSL enquiries: Brian and Shirley Flower, Co-General Secretaries,
53 St Ann Road, RD 2, Waipu 0582, New Zealand, gensec@oslnz.org
or phone 09-432 0421. For prayer requests, testimonies etc.,
contact "Wholeness" using the addresses on page 4.



"What do you want me to do for you?" (Mark 10.51)

This was the question Jesus asked blind Bartimaeus as he sat begging by the side of the road. Bartimaeus had heard that Jesus was passing by, and he began to call out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" He kept this up until Jesus called him over and asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" You would think that answer was obvious, so why ask? In asking the question Jesus was treating Bartimaeus as a person with real needs. He was treating him as someone who mattered and not just another social problem.



Jesus was also giving Bartimaeus a chance to say what he really wanted. Sometimes we think we know what someone needs; but is it what they really want? You see Bartimaeus could have asked for something less. He could have asked for financial assistance to live a more comfortable life so that he wouldn't have to sit by the road side begging all the time. His faith may not have extended to seeing again; it may have seemed too big a thing to expect. Also, if he did get his sight back he would have to go and find a job. As well as that, there would be no more sympathy.



Rev. Lionel Brown

We can be a bit like this and settle for something less when we pray. When facing a problem we need to ask ourselves if we are prepared to request something really big. Is our God big enough? Bartimaeus did not hesitate, he responded, "My teacher, let me see again!" He did not hold back, he knew what he wanted and he believed that Jesus could deliver. Of course

Jesus' response was positive, "Go, your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him.

It was more than physical healing. The word Jesus used for 'well' is a word we use for salvation, so it includes spiritual healing along with physical. Bartimaeus was made whole and he followed Jesus and became a disciple. It is interesting that Bartimaeus is the only person whom Jesus healed who is mentioned by name. He must have been a well known person in the early church.

When Jesus comes to us with that same question, "What do you want me to do for you?" how will we answer? Will we have enough faith to step out and ask for the lot?

Lionel Brown

HE SEES OUR HEART

Rev. Frank Rigg, CFO Today, January 2010

As a young pastor in 1959 I saw an advertisement in our church paper about the first camp to be held in New Zealand by CFO (Camps Farthest Out). There the teaching of Roland Brown turned my life upside down - or, as



Rev. Frank Rigg

Roland expressed it - 'right side up!' My main reason for attending was to learn this man's secrets in the area of healing, so to my initial disappointment I found all of Roland's talks were on the subject of prayer! It took me a while to realize that the essence of prayer is giving our Heavenly Father the opportunity to bring us into line with His will, and to equip us through His Word and by His Spirit to be the living Word to others.

One of Roland's talks which stands out for me was based on Matthew 6.6; with the message emphasising that above listening to our words our Father sees and responds to what is in our hearts. As our hearts change and we get rid of anger, unforgiveness, etc. we become usable in His service. The man of God recommended putting aside an hour a day to meditate on the Scriptures, especially the teachings of Jesus, and endorsed the Sermon on the Mount as the definitive textbook on prayer.

The primary focus for Gwen and me in our ministry together is still to see people come into God's wholeness - in spirit, soul, and body - but we are in no doubt whatever that without tapping into God's infinite resources through prayer, we would not be able to help anyone!

True Freedom

Rev. A. Walker, Faith for Daily Living

True freedom is not doing what you like, but a process of becoming what you should be. To possess a noble ideal and to work towards its fulfilment requires stamina and perseverance, and there are too many who would look upon this discipline as bondage. Yet it is working towards the positive and the ideal that creates true liberty. Freedom, if it is to be truly realised, and to produce the lasting fruit of real well-being, demands discipline and sacrifice.

If you reject all restraints and live only to please yourself, without giving a thought to others, you will soon be the slave of passions and influences over which you have no control. To add to this unhappy state you will find that what you mistakenly took for freedom has turned into the sourness of disillusionment.

"Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil."

(Proverbs 15.16)

A Healing of the Memories

Rev. Ian MacPherson, Perth, Western Australia

"... for I am the LORD that healeth thee." (Exodus 15.26)

While Molly and I were in the U.K. to attend the international conference of the Order of St. Luke the Physician we also visited Canterbury Cathedral, where we went to celebrate Pentecost. Friends had told us that in quiet times there, without the multitude of tourists noisily milling around, there is a palpable awareness of the Communion of Saints. The Cathedral had become well and truly "prayed up" over the centuries.



We went to Evening Prayer and visited the crypt afterwards, in one of those special quiet times. There, suddenly, and seemingly out of nowhere, Molly's mind became filled with thoughts of her still-born son - her first child, born over fifty years ago. She came to the realization that she had tacitly denied his very existence all these years, never mentioning him at all. We talked about her experience, prayed about it, and became convinced that somehow our "being surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses" had prompted the event.

The following morning, while the Church around the world celebrated the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday, Molly announced that having reflected overnight on her experience,

she had decided to give her still-born son the name 'Andrew David'. We attended the glorious Pentecost Eucharist service in the Cathedral, with the Dean preaching on Acts chapter 2, specifically mentioning the importance of names as 'partaking of the essence of our identity'.

After the service we went to the Chapel of the Martyrdom of St. Thomas Becket, and in prayer we named Molly's first-born before God, commended his soul to the loving care of Our Lord, and lit a candle for him. Molly then felt a great sense of joy come over her. She felt that she had finally made amends to Andrew for the many years of denying him, and had finally concluded her unexpressed grieving for him. It was a real experience of healing of the memories for Molly. Praise God!

A missionary is not one who simply crosses the sea, but one who sees the cross.

How can I help Wholeness?

Setting Forward the Cause of Wholeness

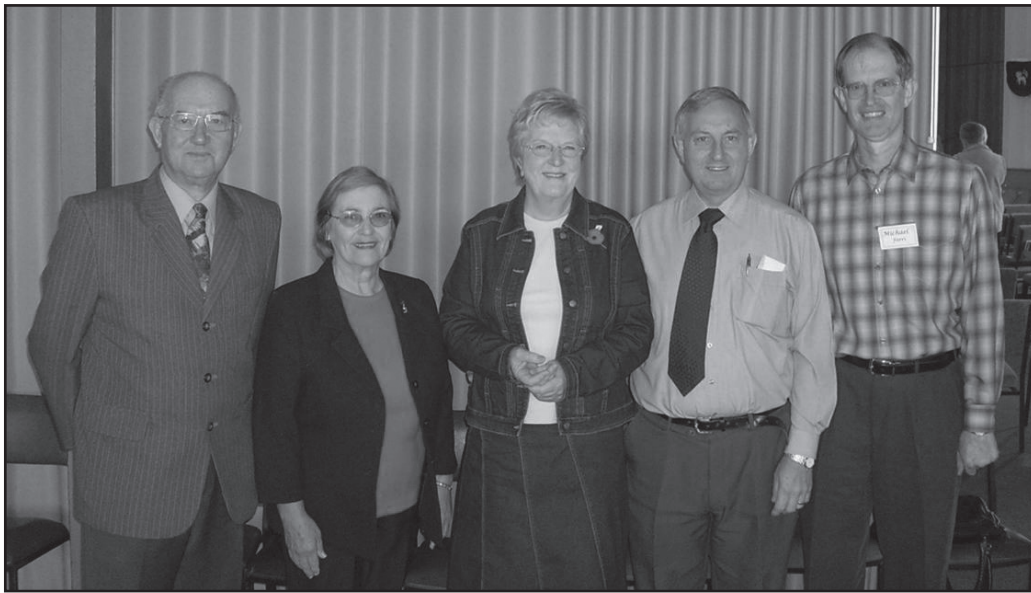
Laurence Mulcock. Reprinted from Wholeness #17, February 1962.

Many of our readers are looking for something they can do to set forward the cause of "Wholeness". Here are some suggestions:

1. Make a list of people to whom you can give "Wholeness".
2. Pray for people who are sick, unhappy or disagreeable and try to find something you can do for them.
3. Write a letter to someone telling them how you are learning to live more happily and successfully in spite of your troubles.
4. Lend a suitable book to someone who is likely to find it helpful.
5. Send any spare books on prayer and healing to us for distribution.
6. Tell people how much God means to you, and what joy you are finding in His service.
7. Ring up somebody whom you know to be lonely or depressed and say something cheerful.
8. Visit someone who is sick either at home or in hospital.



The Wholeness Trust Board



The Rev. Keith Lightfoot (Spiritual Adviser), Jill Hamilton (Assistant Editor), Hazel Tebbutt (Treasurer), Bob Sherson (retiring Chairman), Michael Ferri (Editor, Acting Chairman)

How You Can Help Wholeness

Praying

- for wisdom for the editors as they seek God over which articles to publish.
- for the Holy Spirit to turn the written word into flesh in the hearts of readers, resulting in blessing, freedom and wholeness.
- for a new Chairman for the Trust Board.
- for finances to be released so that the Wholeness ministry may continue.

Promoting

Our print run has declined over the years from 41,000 to 29,000. There is no better way to reach new readers than for present subscribers to give copies away. So, request more copies and give! This, along with a prayer, will bless the recipient, you and Wholeness.

Contributing

Contributions for Wholeness are always most welcome. Testimonies of healing and blessing, encouraging teachings and inspiring devotions are all very much appreciated. Even when items aren't published, do know that they still bring God's precious message to the hearts and minds of our staff.

Supporting

Wholeness will always be free, and will be sent to whoever asks for a copy, without a request for, nor an expectation of, a donation. However, that doesn't mean that it costs nothing to publish. Our expenses are around \$5,000.00 to print, pack and post each quarterly edition. It is of concern to the board that over the past year our expenses have been \$22,152.00 while donations have totalled only \$13,508.00. If you are one of the majority of our readers who can't afford to contribute financially then please offer that which is even more important, prayer for the success of our publication. Please pray for God's provision for the amount we need, for donors and benefactors to be moved, and for those who are able to make a bequest in their will to be inspired to do so. Join with us in knowing that since this is not our ministry but His "our God shall supply all our needs."

"WHOLENESS"

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Donations & Accounts: Bob Sherson Prayer: Malia Ferri

Waiting For God

John Borman, Faith for Daily Living

"I am going to send you what my Father has promised..." (Luke 24.29)

Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem. Fortunately, they obeyed! Day after day after day after day ... six days, seven days, eight days, nine days – and still nothing happened. Jesus had not told them exactly what would happen, simply that they would be endued with power from on high. He didn't tell them which day it would happen – they just waited in obedience.

They chose another disciple to replace Judas Iscariot. Then they waited some more. Obedience and waiting are not always easy! But what God had promised, God would fulfil. The same is true in our lives. Waiting times are often hard and trying. We would love to short-circuit them. But when God is ready to move, He will. In the meantime we wait, we pray, we hold on in faith and we look to Him. Praise God for His directions in our lives. Praise God for the waiting times which teach us patience and dependence on Him. Praise God that in His time He will move, and Jesus' words will be fulfilled again, this time for us, "I am going to send you what my Father has promised."



Wholeness Chairman Resigns

It was with regret but total understanding that the Board has accepted Bob Sherson's decision to resign. Firstly we would ask for prayer that the right person will be appointed to replace Bob, and secondly we would ask for the sharing of any wisdom as to who that right person might be. If you or someone you know, particularly in the Hamilton area, feel called to such a role, please contact us.

"Are we a believer in evangelical Christianity, or are we an evangelical believer?"

Rev. Bob Barnes, Hamilton, NZ

HOW TO ORDER

"Wholeness" is supported entirely by love offerings: mainly from individual readers and especially those who regularly send a "birthday present in reverse". Some churches and groups allocate a special offering to this Ministry.

Cheques in your currency are acceptable, but not Postal Notes. For donations to our KiwiBank account number 3890050310586-00 please include your name in the details space. For N.Z. receipts (tax deductible) a stamped and addressed envelope is appreciated. God bless you all and thank you.

We love to hear from you: testimonies, news, donations, and requests for prayer. Please address all such letters to our editorial office. We also hope that you will interest others in our paper.

WE PACK AND PROCESS

We dispatch as follows: Envelopes of 2 or 5; N.Z. packs of 10, 20, 30 etc. Overseas packs of 10 or multiples of 20. (Our most economic rate.)

N.B. For change of address or order please try to return your label.

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