

# In Charge of Change

## From Chris's Desk



### I told my children about my first computer – they laughed!

Then it was all the rage, now our microwave has more computing power, how things have changed! A business analyst from the U.S. wrote that, "From the time of recorded history to 1900, information doubled. By 1950, it doubled again. Starting in 1975, it began doubling every five years. Presently it's doubling every two years."

The harsh reality is that change is a constant, and it is demanding more and more of us. Whoever we are children, adults working or retired, single or married, we feel the pressure and effects of change, pushing out the important things of life.

These words of Jesus then seem nice but irrelevant, "...do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'...But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Actually, they would have seemed irrelevant then too, with no social security and the only way out being sold into slavery, in order to pay off your debts. So why did Jesus, no stranger to the harshness of life, use such words.

Lets consider first what are the things of the Kingdom - to love God and neighbour, the value of work, the call on us as husband or wife, as parents and grandparents, the importance of friendship, integrity, service, the command to rest; these are things of the kingdom.

We are instructed to seek – this is an active word. Instead of just allowing change to happen, perhaps we need to become agents of change. Having decided what is key and what is secondary, we can begin to look into the future and make decisions for ourselves – it may be that we have to think five years ahead, but perhaps we can become agents of change in our lives.

As a church we live in a time of change, and the process to renew the vision for our church, is exactly this...seeking God's kingdom...love of God and neighbour, prayer and worship, the great commission to go out and make disciples, the call to reach out to the poor and the marginalised, the importance of friendship, integrity, service, and the command to rest. And we too are being called to actively seek the kingdom. Not to simply allow change, but to become agents of change in the church and in society, enabling the values of the kingdom and the love of God to be daily reality for people. As individuals, families, organisations and churches we seem to be called to the same thing; to recognise that which is of God and his kingdom and to actively seek after it.

St Matthew records Jesus going on to say, "For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." Mt 7.8

Best Wishes

Chris