

LINKing s and Hands

The Power of the Cross

It is a subject rarely mentioned or taught these days, but the power of the Cross has the ability to draw all men.

John 12:32-33: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said signifying what death he should die."



The drawing power is in the Cross and His death upon it. Today it is easy to lose sight of this truth, for we live in a day when men draw others to themselves, through their personal appeal, through multi media preaching and large charismatic gatherings. When these great names today do eventually die or fall into obscurity, all they stood for and preached about, dies with them. But think about Jesus! It is His death that we are to remember and in all of its shame, it is the magnet that draws men and women.

We should never be ashamed to preach Christ crucified. If we take His words as true (which we do!) He says this will be what draws people to Himself. He does not draw people to a denomination or a great church building, but He will draw us to Truth and righteousness.

The great preacher, Spurgeon in the 1800's told of some missionaries who went to the people of Greenland. These missionaries were hesitant to preach Jesus Christ to these people in darkness. They did not even know there is a God, so the missionaries began teaching them right from wrong, teaching them the rewards of the good and the payment for the wicked. This type of teaching went on for many years, but without any converts. One day the missionary happened to read the story of Jesus dying on the Cross. He read the verse we all know so well For God so loved the world..... The Greenlander stopped him and said "Would you read me

WELCOME

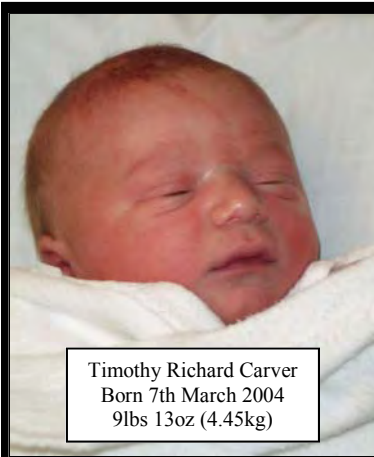
So many of you wrote and told me how much you enjoyed getting the newsletter. I felt really happy about this because it has been on my heart to do something to keep us in touch!

By the time you get this letter it will be almost Easter. This brought to mind the fact that it is all about Jesus and His death and resurrection. It is easy to forget this when the stores are full of eggs, rabbits and chickens! Some years ago when we went through some difficult trials I did some reading on the Cross and His sufferings. This study really deepened my walk with Him and I felt I loved Him more than ever after having looked into all that His death really meant. I have a quote written in my notes, but I do not know where I got it from. "If you measure the height of His love, it is measured by the depth of His grief. What measure of love should we return to the One who bore the utmost penalty."

that again?" What wonderful words! Why did n't you tell us this before?

In actual fact this is the place to begin. What other story can match the one that tells of God Himself dwelling with men? God Himself putting on flesh and living amongst mankind. God Himself in the form of man, the Son of God, dying upon a Cross, to redeem us from the penalty of sin.

Perhaps some of us can remember being drawn by this message as children. There is a power in the message of the Cross that we cannot explain. It is the love of Christ that constrains us. 2 Corinthians 5:14 That means it gets a hold on us and will not let us go. This love is shown most clearly in His suffering and death on the Cross. Isn't it strange that His sufferings would draw us and do something in our hearts?



Timothy Richard Carver
Born 7th March 2004
9lbs 13oz (4.45kg)



The four Grandchildren with Nanny



If you would like to receive this newsletter by email contact:
carver@nsw.quik.com.au
or regular mail:
P.O. Box 730, Lismore NSW 2480
AUSTRALIA
Editor: Margaret Carver

Recipe and a visit to New Zealand



I have included a recipe that is easy and tastes good. I thought I would tell you the story behind where I got the recipe.

LEMON SLICE (No cooking needed)

100 grams of butter
1/2 tin of condensed milk
1 cup of coconut
Grated rind of lemon
1 packet of crushed biscuits (plain sweet biscuits such as *Marie* or *Morning Coffee*)
Crush the biscuits; melt the butter and mix with the coconut and condensed milk. Mix all together with the crushed mixture and spread into a buttered thin slice tin. Put in fridge.
Top with Lemon Icing: 1 cup icing sugar, with desert spoon of butter. Mix together well and add grated lemon rind and juice of lemon, enough to spread the icing. Cut into small slices in tin. Put all in fridge until ready to use.

In November 2002 the missionaries in the Pacific gathered in Christchurch, New Zealand for the Pacific missionary Retreat. Missionaries came from all over the vast Pacific to meet together for 3 days and nights of teaching, fellowship and sight seeing.

We met in the South Island city of Christchurch, the city of gardens and parks. Our Regional Director Richard Denny and Sister Denny joined the missionaries, inviting our Foreign Missions Director Brother Bruce Howell and his wife to be the special guests at this retreat.

On the Friday a very enjoyable day was organised. We took a bus south of the city to a town that was settled by the French in 1840; the small town of



Akaroa. Along the way we stopped for lunch at a restaurant. The views, the fellowship and the good meal will long be remembered! From there, the bus continued to

Akaroa. This settlement has kept its French influence. Many streets have french names, the garage sells 'l'essence petrol', the architecture is distinctively french. Homesteads and cottages dot the landscape of the Banks peninsula. We boarded a catamaran (boat) on Akaroa Harbour and set sail in search of wildlife found only in this area. As we neared the harbour mouth we were able to catch glimpses of a small dolphin peculiar to this harbour. The boat sailed close to the steep sides of the harbour so we could see a seal

and penguins on the ledges. These penguins are the rare protected yellow eyed, second largest in the species of penguins and are peculiar to the South Island region.

The following morning we took a tour of a sheep farm. This was an interesting experience at a local sheep farm with all the warm hospitality of the New Zealand sheep farmer and his wife. We were taken not far from Christchurch to a lovely farm, set in green fields with hundreds of white sheep dotting the landscape. After meeting the farmer and his wife we were able to ride on small bus out into the fields. Some of the men rode on the back of a tractor amongst the hay! In the large open fields we watched as the sheep were herded using the famous sheep dog. As the farmer whistled his instructions the dog gathered the sheep, directing them right and left depending on what the whistle instructed. Many interesting things were told to us by the farmer about sheep and their habits. Our next stop was the woolshed, where we watched the farmer shear the sheep. As the large sheep just lay with out any fuss or struggle, in the farmers arms when he took those large clippers to shear the wool, it made us think of the scripture "*he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth*" *Isaiah 53:7*

Finally, we were treated to a real English afternoon tea. We were taken to the farmhouse by the farmer where his wife was ready with tea in lovely china cups and saucers, with cakes and slices to go along with the welcome cup of tea. Among the home made cakes was a Lemon Slice which the farmers wife offered. We asked her for the recipe because it tasted so good. I have made this a few times and it can be frozen also if you do not use it all. It is best kept in the fridge until time to serve it.

To complete this pleasant time we went on Sunday morning to the church service hosted by the local pastor and Aimers Wayne and Elaine Goodare and family. What a great privilege it is to belong to the family of God and have a common goal and purpose in life!

- *Margaret Carver*



Sheep Shearing in New Zealand