

LIFE IS WHAT IT IS - ??

“The challenge of finding good news stories and hope”!

As I sat down to write another blog I wanted to write a good news story, one that would perhaps inspire one person to continue “the fight”, uphold biblical values, become a healthier person in mind, become a better spouse, a better parent, a better child or just give some hope.

Where would I find my own inspiration to achieve this task? Open a newspaper and you find no good news stories, even the sports pages tell of troubled clubs or individuals. Turn on the TV and all you are faced with is violence, sex and mayhem. Social media is filled with pages of hate, bullying and darkness. Magazines tell of troubled “celebrity” lives. The internet, well the internet is “the internet”. Most of our “Leaders” offer very little in the way of a lifestyle worth emulating. Our education institutions are almost bereft of teaching good family values, resulting in good life stories. I was quickly becoming despondent wondering where do people turn too when searching for a dose of healthy positive influences into their lives? The role models we once had have changed in stature and status. No wonder we have multitudes of counsellors intruding into our daily lives on almost every front. Every school employs a “counsellor” in this day and age. Yet despite this an alarming tragedy is unfolding before our very eyes. This is no good news story and it is immersed in hopelessness.

The suicide rate in Australia has grown to 12 per 100,000 of population per year [2014 figures]. Suicide accounts for more than **one third** of deaths among Australians **aged between 15-24yrs**. All these figures equate to **7.8 deaths by suicide per day!** That to me is staggering and shows there are very few “good news” stories in these people’s lives. Suicide generally means a complete lack of hope in the mind of that individual. A tipping point has been reached whereby death seems the only solution. It is a tragedy for any human to have reached such a point. Before reaching this point many reach out for relief, looking for an answer to the pain and suffering. So where do they look for their “Good News” stories? Too often it is a bottle, a syringe, a gang or organisation that gives them a feeling of belonging, brief as it may be. There are countless so-called solutions presented to us, promising that which cannot be delivered. Take a moment to absorb what is peddled as entertainment, products that are influencing lives and resulting in 7.8 suicides a day in Australia. In America the statistics

record that there are approximately 105 deaths per day by suicide. That is one every 12.3 minutes. In England the percentage rates are similar. These are countries that once had a strong Judeo-Christian foundation. It would appear that as the Judeo-Christian foundations have eroded the suicide rates have increased.

What can be done to change the landscape? Where can we find good news and hope instead of despair? Well we must begin to look outside of what is presently on offer. People are looking for a quick fix, hence the reliance on temporary substances that briefly offer a deluded hope. No longer are we building strong foundations that stand the test of time. Instead we are exchanging these foundations for superficial lifestyles that lead to destruction. One glaring example of this is the attack on original marriage. A marriage built on a lifelong committed union between man and woman, [yes male and female], bringing up children under instructions found in a “Good News” book that offers hope and life – The Bible, is the best scenario for mankind. Guarantee - if our societies adhered to the teachings found in the Bible for individuals, families, communities and country, then the sad statistics of suicide would disappear and we would be reading Good Time stories that offer hope and life. The Good News story that offers hope and life to all is still available to any who want to obtain it. We could turn our world around if we chose to do so, but I fear we have a lot of pain ahead of us before this takes place. We have refused the Medicine that heals, preferring to take mixtures that destroy, deluding ourselves into thinking all is getting better. However, the truth is that many events and stories now promoted as good news stories offering hope, are really stories of decay and rebellion against our Creator.

I implore people to take a fresh look at the Bible and the Good News and absolute hope it offers. Within its pages is Wisdom that cannot be found elsewhere. It offers the perfect counsel for all of humanity because the source comes from the perfect counsellor. Here indeed is a Good News story full of hope.

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