



Vol. 5 No. 1 – Small Kindnesses

As the Evangelist John so forcefully puts it at the start of his Gospel (John 1:1-14), Jesus of Nazareth brought God's Word ("The Logos") to humankind. Our duty as Christians is to constantly endeavour to live Christ-like lives.

Now, my mother, Joan Branford, lives in an aged-care facility following an ischaemic stroke. A man moved into the room next to hers, but he was alas in the last days of his life. As it happens, both Joan and he attended the same secondary school many decades previously, although not at the same time. Most evenings, the man would have difficulty getting to sleep, so Joan would go into his room around 11:00 p.m. She would sit next to his bed, and they would reminisce about the old days at Adelaide Technical High School. Joan would do this night after night, until eventually the man died.

This was a small act of Christian love. But do not forget that an entire beach is made up only of tiny grains of sand. Each one plays a part, and it takes all of them to make the beach.

The moral philosophy introduced to humankind by Jesus of Nazareth is the guiding landmark of all who call themselves Christian.

I do not agree with the apocalyptic views preached by John the Baptist. Jesus of Nazareth taught us an "ethical eschatology", to use a term coined by the theologian John Dominic Crossan. We should not all stand about like hapless wildebeest waiting for a spectacular miracle to save us.

We are in the Kingdom of God on Earth.

God is within each of us, and it is up to us to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit within us to spread the Logos and to put it into action, each commensurate with their ability and opportunity, to end the evil and the suffering in God's creation.

And remember, every small act of Christian kindness counts towards this end!

