

## Four Keys #3

# Shared Service



*Acts 20:35. It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

*James 2:14-17. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does nothing? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, without action, is dead.*

*Matt 25:40. When you did one of these things for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it for me.*

### HOW DID YOU GET HERE? WHO WAS PIVOTAL IN GETTING YOU HERE?

*Hebrews 13:7. Remember your leaders who first taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and trust the Lord as they do...*

### I ARRIVED HERE BECAUSE OF LOVE IN ACTION

*John 13:14. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.*

Jesus didn't just say good things, he did the best possible thing, When I was a lost and desolate sinner he gave life for me. I believe in Jesus, not because I'm trying to impress God, but because he first loved me. I also came to trust Jesus because I saw people around me actually "doing faith". I experienced that people at church acted in decisive ways to love me and the world.

### IT'S NOT JUST THAT I WAS SERVED BUT THAT SOMEONE SHARED SERVICE WITH ME

Dad's shed had a tin roof and dirt floor, fishing rods, wooden crates, a home-made bench grinder, buckets of bolts and bits, red back spiders, and fantastical unfinished projects! From a young age I understood that "we look after people." We serve them." That's what we do. And we do it together. I learnt from Dad that faith is about unblocking people's toilets and fixing their washing machines. I learnt that faith is action because he shared service with me.

### SHARED SERVICE GROWS HOPE AND FAITH!

*"As a visible expression of Christian love and faith, service puts "wheels on faith", bringing it into the arena of daily life and connecting Christian proclamation with tangible situations and practices. It shows how faith makes a difference in the world and bears Christ into the hurts, hopes and struggles of day to day existence... Many Christian adults can recall quite clearly childhood experiences of service which functioned as "real life sermons" on the nature of God's love and Christian living. Indeed, Search Institute research has found that adults who are higher in faith maturity are more likely to have been involved in faith-related service as children and teenagers, and that such involvement is a better predictor of adult faith maturity than child/youth participation in Sunday school, bible study or even worship services..."*

- Pastors Dave Anderson and Dick Hardel.

### SHARED SERVICE GOES DEEPER THAN SERVING ALONE

Sometimes we are tempted to serve on our own because it seems easier. But unless we share the action we are not fully "being Christ's body". Unless we share service it can even remain a form of selfishness.

### SHARED SERVICE IS FUN (IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE WORD 'FUN' PUT IN THE SERIOUS WORD 'RELATIONAL'!)

This week I mowed the lawn in a new way. It was much much slower than normal. And far more fun! Faith is grown through action – if you want to grow in faith, trying acting in faith. When we share the service action with others they grow too! It's not about doing big projects all the time or taking them on big mission trips. It's just about living your faith by serving and inviting people to get involved. Shared service helps us hand down faith!

### A SHARED SERVICE BRAINSTORM

Has the Holy Spirit given you a new idea today?

How can we share service in small regular real ways?

### SOME SHARED SERVICE STARTERS:

- Adopt an elderly member of the congregation to visit and to have to your home.
- Together as a family, buy groceries for a food pantry supporting the needy.
- Plan "hospitality nights" when you can have people around for dinner.
- Go on a walk to collect stray rubbish in your neighbourhood.
- Sponsor a child through World Vision or a similar organization.
- Make get-well cards to send to sick people in the congregation or community.
- Volunteer to help take care of an elderly person's garden.
- Make a food, clothing, or toy hamper for a family in need.
- Volunteer at or contribute prepared meals to a food bank.
- Visit a seniors home and sing songs to the residents.
- Make welcome cards to be presented to each person baptized in their congregation.
- Adopt and clean up a park or a busy roadside.

- Pastor Matt Thiele, 19/08/2018 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Buderim