

**“Retired” Minister
Kingsley Neale**



I've been some sort of a Christian all my life but I've been a minister for only the last thirty years. Which is good, because I really was not spiritually equipped to be one before that. I was brought up in the Salvation Army, which was great. I gave my heart to God in my teens, but I didn't really understand what that meant. And I probably still didn't have much of a handle on it until I was in the Royal Brisbane Hospital recovering from surgery on my spine to remove a

cancer. The surgeon had explained that the surgery went well, but they could not get it all. I would need six months of chemotherapy, and the odds for recovery were not in my favour. That's a fairly sobering thing to be told.

In the quiet of the hospital night I decided that this Christian needed to pray. But the extraordinary thing was that I didn't pray for healing. I found myself saying to God, 'I've always been some sort of a Christian, but I've never really completely surrendered to You, given my heart completely to You. I've always kept a bit back as a sort of insurance. And I want to give myself completely to You now. And if I recover, that'll be great, and if I don't, that will be OK.' And there was an immediate flood of peace. I touched 'the peace that passes all understanding' and there came an assurance of recovery.

And that's what happened. Six months of chemotherapy, without losing a day off work, and a clear scan at the end of it.

Then I spent the next couple of years asking God what He wanted me to do as my part of the bargain, but He never answered. And then, in another significant silence, He gave me understanding.

'I don't want you to do anything, Kingsley. There is no bargain. I simply gave you back your life, no strings attached. You can't

do anything to earn it. Just learn about My kind of love – unconditional unearnable, freely given.'

So then I really became a Christian And I had something to go on as a minister. So I tell anybody who's interested that God loves them. They can respond by loving Him, but they can't do anything to earn it. It's not a bargain. It's a gift.

Blessings, Kingsley

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This Sunday is CHAPLAINCY SUNDAY. We welcome Doug Milton, who will be speaking to us about his work as a chaplain at Elanora State School.

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Also this morning, Rev Catherine and Michele Lake will be telling us a little about our recent church SYNOD.

PRAY and PARTICIPATE



- 1 June: Church Council Retreat: all day
- 6 June: Defibrillator Workshop: 1:30pm
- 6 June: Chaplaincy Dinner: 6:00pm
- 15 June: Family Fun Day: 11am-3pm
- 16 June, 9:00am: Informal Service



**Are YOU helping
at our
FAMILY FUN DAY?
15th June.
Please see Dianne.**

The "target group" for our FAMILY FUN DAY is FAMILIES IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY.

With the newsletter at church this morning, you will receive a flyer and a small card, both publicising our Family Fun Day. If you have neighbours with young children, please invite them. Please see Janine in the courtyard after church if you would like a few more flyers/cards.

The 9am service on Sunday 16th June will be an INFORMAL SERVICE FOR YOUNG FAMILIES



An instructor from 'First Aid Accident & Emergency' will be conducting a defibrillator workshop in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday 6th June, from 1:30 – 2:30. Basic CPR will be included.

The workshop is free. If you are interested in attending, please advise Dianne Malimonenko by Wednesday 5th June.

For your notes....



Website: www.elanorauniting.com.au

Email: church@elanorauniting.com.au

Church Office: 5534 5817

Office Hours: 9am – 12noon, weekdays
17a Applecross Way, Elanora, 4221.

Minister: Rev Catherine Solomon

Email: minister@elanorauniting.com.au

Mobile: 0438 557 677

