

# "LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



## PLEASE! DON'T THROW ROCKS!

When I first visited "The Bridge", there seemed to be glass houses everywhere. Now, they are almost an oddity. A smattering of these structures that one time produced masses of produce to help feed a nation. Many were symbols of new lives built around hard work, family care and togetherness. Structures that harnessed light and warmth to produce life-sustaining food created opportunities to "make a living" and families to settle and create "community".

In days past, did "young larrikins of the town go on rock chucking, glass smashing sprees? I tend to doubt it.

While glass houses as we know them are diminishing, sadly, there is more damage done today by what I would call "Word-Chuckers". Daily, we read or are confronted with visual stories of names, reputations, and lives destroyed by careless or, unfortunately, deliberately thrown words and inferences. And if we are honest with ourselves, we would all have to hang our heads and mutter "Sorry" to probably more than one person and God.

I'm pretty confident there are more lives broken or damaged by deliberately chucked words, some aimed to hurt and destroy, others carelessly thrown without thought or concern, than glass houses decimated by rocks.

Do you carry scars? Is there a part of your life that lies shattered by hard, sharp words, texts, and emails? Words shouted across a room, a road or as sniggering ridicule from behind half-closed hands and pointing fingers? If you are emotionally bleeding and feel, "Can I ever heal?" Please! Please! Do not give up and let the "Chuckers" win.

A couple of thousand years ago, this bloke spent three years walking the country roads of Israel. His name was Jesus. He told people he was the Son of God. People believed he was the Son of God, named in the Bible; millions of people today worldwide believe He IS the Son of God as written about in God's Word, the Bible. This Jesus knows about being picked on, not by a snivelling text message. Important leaders and ordinary people made fun of him. Soldiers spat on him, whipped him, mocked him and then nailed him to a cross to die. Did he throw curses at them? No! He trusted his heavenly father's love and said, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing", and one of the soldiers knelt and said, "This IS the Son of God!" **Check the complete story in Matthew chapters 27 and 28 – it won't take long.**

When you feel the "rocks" coming thick and fast, remember these words from the loving God who always wants what is best for you. "Be strong and of good courage ... for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave nor forsake you"

**(Deuteronomy 31:6). AND "When you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. (1 Peter 2:20-22)**

So please don't "chuck rocks" and leave the loving God to deflect the ones coming your way.

Kevin.