

"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



OPEN

As a child growing up on a farm in the fifties, one of my jobs was collecting dry pinecones to burn in the wood-chip water heater at the end of the old, galvanised tin bath. This marvellous invention received cold water through a pipe at the bottom and with frightening groans, rumbles, roars and shudders, which sometimes shook the bathroom wall, spewed out steam and boiling water into the bathtub – every Saturday night for the family bath. Dry pinecones with their OPEN structure were just the right design to cause combustion airflow, and they worked so efficiently that the vibrating chimney turned red hot; Dad would yell, "Not so many pine cones, you kids! You want to burn the house down?"

"Open." How often do we stop and consider the concept of "open"? Doors must be open so new and old friends can "come in", and relationships can be nurtured or restored. Minds need to be open to new possibilities, new experiences, new understanding, and experiences to enable the gathering of joy and wonder, love and caring. Seed pods need to burst "open" to shower the earth with seeds, which in turn will "open" to create a new plant to provide food, clothing, or beauty for the benefit of all. Wombs must open to allow a new and beating heart to bring new joy, new opportunities for caring, sharing, nurturing, and new openness.

As we come toward Easter, we might consider that occasion so long ago the absolute pinnacle of "open" from before time to eternity. In this act of love by Almighty God, he opens himself and his passion to us and all creation. He says in word and action, "I lay myself and all my love bare for all to see and experience through the rejection, the torture, the ridicule, the beating, the spitting, the beatings, the suffering and death of my loved son; All of this, all of my love, I open and lay before you. There is no cost to you. All is open and free. It is who I am. All I ask is that you accept and trust the love I offer. Accept my offer of a new and open friendship of love and trust, which I openly offer in love. What is your response? I sincerely trust your response will be an open and honest acceptance of all I offer." This open, loving offer of God – the Easter Story, can be read in his words, in his book, the Bible in several places; here are a few. *Matthew 21:7-9 — Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. Matthew 26:14-16 — Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus. Matthew 26:18 — The Last Supper. Matthew 26:36 — The Garden of Gethsemane. Matthew 26:39 — Jesus Prays in the Garden. Matthew 27:1-2 — Jesus Delivered to Pilate. John 19:6 — The Trial of Jesus Before Pilate. Matthew 27:30-31 — Jesus' Final Steps. Mark 15:33 — Darkness Comes. Luke 23:46 — The Death of Jesus. Matthew 27:57-59 — Jesus' Body. John 19:40-41 — Jesus is Buried. Luke 24:1-6 — The Resurrection. Matthew 28:8-10 — Jesus Appears. John 21:1-14 — Jesus Calls to Disciples while they are fishing.*

God bless,

Kevin.