

# "LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



## THE LOVING, HELPING, SUPPORTING, ENCOURAGING HAND

Sitting in the church pew and observing the members moving to the front to take Holy Communion and then back to their pews, not for the first time, I noticed how these people, many I had known for several years, moved to a different beat. This morning, my musings took a turn.

These were people whose gait at one time had moved with a straight back, clear-eyed, confident of posture and resolve. These were members of a community on which, with confidence, they had left their mark.

Their feet, no longer sporting high heels or highly polished dress shoes, now moved with a hesitant shuffle, almost as if feeling their way along the carpet, but still with dignity, and behind the now fading eyes, if one bothered to look, there was still a glimmer of the spark that lit the lives of those around them. The now dry and sometimes quivering lips still lifted in a smile of recognition of a friend.

Hands which once with strength and agility served, now covered in dark sunspots and wrinkles resulting from skeletal muscles and surplus skin, now shakily clutched the curve of their friendly and supportive walking stick.

But as I watched, I imagined another hand, solid and supportive yet loving, gentle, caring and encouraging. This hand showed the bloody marks of a wound, a wound from a nail driven by anger, jealousy, and pride, into the wood of a cross over two thousand years ago—the hand of Jesus Christ, the son of a Loving God. Though bowed and shuffling, these friends could still smile and move forward because they knew and believed the love and support of their friend Jesus walked with them at their pace wherever they were going, no matter how slowly. **(Matthew 28:20)**

You may not be old and shuffling, do not need a walking stick, and can still run and jump, but is there something else in your life that causes pain, takes the glint of joy from your eye and the smile from your lips? To Jesus, it makes no difference if it is a physical hurt or ailment, a pain in your heart that has caused joy to wither, or something in your conscience that is causing you to stumble and stagger in your walk with a loving God, Jesus still walks alongside and says, "Here let me give you a hand! Come with me!" He said this to a thief hanging on a cross next to him and showed that he knew what he was talking about when, three days later, he showed his power over everything that messes up life by coming out of the grave with power and glory. This is what Easter is about. **Check out John chapters 18 to 20**

God bless you,  
Kevin.