

# Introduction of Theme



You may think my selection of an Old Testament verse as unusual but I have to share with you that it is the one which kept coming back to me as I prayed to God for guidance for my leadership of GFS Australia. Those who know me well will know I place a great deal of emphasis on God's guidance in all decisions. In fact you will probably become tired and possibly even frustrated with me as I ask that we all take a breath and pray before we act. This is the invitation that was given, that I now offer you.

Many will also know this process of prayer and guidance tested me, as I waited for God's direction when it came to who would join me in this team. Maybe here in lies some of the answer as to why we might have been directed back to this verse, maybe we need to return to basics if we are to follow God's call for us in GFS into the future. I do not see this as a step backwards but rather a call to ensure we focus on what we have done so well and has allowed us to continue for so long. We in GFS have such a wonderfully rich history of serving God through bearing one another's burdens.

I see a direct connection in our current concerns with those of the Church we indeed are connected to. A connection I will encourage you to reconnect with and to strengthen. We have so much to offer our churches as they begin to review and rebuild. We have all just experienced the exposure of much of the most horrible of the church's activities. It has certainly shocked many but unfortunately only confirmed what many have known for a long time. It is time again to seek Justice.

I also see it is time to Love mercy. Now is not a time for us to remind others that we have acted prudently but rather to offer and encourage, maybe even trying again in places where in the past connections have not flourished. I believe so often we use language to defeat ourselves. "We tried this before, it won't work." Now you're invited to a language that speaks to the positivity of God's great Love for us. Let us hear that language, "We could give that a go."

Finally we are called to walk humbly with our God. We as GFS have been walking this journey for such a long time and I believe God will continue to bless us and our service if we continue to breath, pray, offer our decisions to God, to seek Justice, To Love Mercy and thus walk humbly with our God.

The invitation is now before you and me. God, the same God who invited Mary Elizabeth Townsend all those years ago, invites each of us to continue that walk together.

*Cheryl*

SEEK, LOVE, WALK ..... WITH YOUR GOD