

News From The Homefront

Anzac Day –

Australia celebrated Anzac Day this past month. One of the more famous stories of heroism concerns a man named John Simpson Kirkpatrick. He was called “Simpson” and had a great affection for animals. As World War One was getting underway, he was accepted and chosen as a field ambulance stretcher bearer for the Australian Imperial Force. In 1915, he and the rest of the Australian and New Zealand contingent landed at the wrong beach on a piece of savage terrain now known as Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey.

Attack and counter attack began. Jack was carrying casualties back to the beach over his shoulder when he saw a donkey. He knew what he had to do. From then on he walked along next to the donkey, singing and whistling as he held on to his wounded passengers, seemingly unbothered by the extreme danger. In 24 days he was able to rescue over 300 men. His heroic feat was accomplished under constant and ferocious attacks from artillery, field guns, and sniper fire. His heroism was short lived as he too was shot by a machine gun, but his actions are still remembered to this day. ---Quotes from some of his officers:

- Captain C. Longmore, in 1933, remembered how the soldiers "watched him spellbound from the trenches....it was one of the most inspiring sights of those early Gallipoli days."
- Colonel John Monash wrote "Private Simpson and his little beast earned the admiration of everyone at the upper end of the valley. They worked all day and night throughout the whole period since the landing, and the help rendered to the wounded was invaluable. Simpson knew no fear and moved unconcernedly amid shrapnel and rifle fire, steadily carrying out his self imposed task day by day, and he frequently earned the applause of the personnel for his many fearless rescues of wounded men from areas subject to rifle and shrapnel fire."

(Edited from the Internet website - www.anzacs.net)

Mateship –

The term “mateship” originally started in World War One and for years referred to males in military endeavours. However it is slowly changing its meaning. Though it has always meant a mutual respect and a compassion for those in need, a “mate” can now be anyone, even a total stranger. I’m thankful for all of the “mates” in our Baptist churches. Although we don’t always see each other often, there is a common ground in our Lord Jesus Christ and thus a true and deeper meaning of “mateship.”

Moment by Moment –

At the first of April, we got news from Papua New Guinea that many were ill with Malaria and different flu’s and fevers. I wondered if was from all the recent rain in this part of the world. Then a couple of days ago, Bro. Norman sent an email that said, “Thank you for your prayers. I am better now and the Lord gave me another time to share his Word.” ---It reminded me of a man I heard speak on a documentary who said that he used to think in terms of “year by year” then “day by day, “ but now thinks in terms of “moment by moment.” The thought stayed with me. Though we don’t know what each moment will hold, we do know that God is with us and can trust Him to uphold and strengthen us. And if it is God’s will, sharing our talents and furthering the Gospel will be done “moment by moment.”

A friend in Christ, Cyd James