

## THAT FIRE SIREN

One of the most satisfying things to do at the end of a long day is to slip between the sheets and close my eyes and wander off to the land of nod. Occasionally however that noisy siren which wails out in times of emergency interrupts this. Summoning the Fire Fighters and the Rural Fire Party again in times of need. Throughout the district feet hit the floor and clothes are quickly pulled on as the mad dash to the station begins. Each person giving up their time and energy for the service of others.

This reminds me of a graphic story Jesus told showing our responsibility towards others. In it he talked of a King acknowledging people for the way they responded to the needs of others. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Enter.. take what's coming to you in this kingdom... And here's why: I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me.'

"Then they went on to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me- you did it to me.' (Matt 25:34-40) In their own way the feet that hit the floor when the siren goes off are taking seriously the point of Jesus story. For a Christian, belief in Jesus brings a desire to serve others.

When the siren goes at night, it takes me a little longer than others to respond because I have to stop and put my contact lens in. Sometimes this means I'm late getting there. "So late", my son has been known to ask in the morning "Daddy did you miss the fire engine last night"? How can you help those in need around you today?