

"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



JUST ADD

Usually, I would hardly bother to look down our street at night. However, the road seemed different as I stepped out the front door the other night. What was it? It couldn't be just the wet road; I'd often seen rain on the bitumen. The kerb-side lights were on every night. Murray Bridge regularly has cloud coverage. The verandah light is often on. So, this night, what was different? What had caused me to look and see what I considered was worthy of photographing?

The reflected light on the wet road caused the golden patina on the usually dark road; the verandah light was creating diamonds in the shrubbery, the light mist in the air gave the usually uninteresting lights glowing halos, while the clouds were of just the necessary density and height to bounce back the lights of the town. In short, several individual actions had all come together to create a moment of wonder.

The words, "For everything, there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:" are well known by many. While they come from God's Word, The Bible, *Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*, these words have been used in a chart-topping song by a well-known group (Turn, Turn by The Seekers" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRg9NkldjVs>)

While the words are beautiful and full of thoughtfulness, they tend to focus on more significant life issues like living and dying, building up and pulling down, war and peace, mourning and dancing, and many more life issues, all real and worth considering. Why don't you read the words for yourself or listen to the song on YouTube?

We tend to forget how much of a positive difference we can make to lives by adding what we might think are "small" issues. Take what we have, a kind word, add a smile, add a comforting hand on a shoulder and it all comes together to create a moment of care never to be forgotten.

I have seen an encouraging word added to a non-judgemental smile of understanding turn the face of a mother battling a toddler's tantrums in a store aisle into a picture of relief and thankfulness.

Jesus did this. He took his love for people, added demonstrations of love, added words of forgiveness, added words of encouragement, added self-sacrifice on a cross and finally added a demonstration showing that all he said was true and that he could keep all his promises of caring for us by coming alive again. But then, he is the Son of God.

This week, why not talk to God about "value adding" to caring? You may be surprised at the dividends.