

LIFE THROUGH THE LENS



COMPASSION AT THE SHEEP TROUGH

"Hey Grandpa? What makes the windmill go round?"

"The wind." "Oh. But I can't see anything pushing it around." "No, you can't see the wind, but you can see what it does. The wind turns the wheel. The wheel goes around and makes that bit go up and down, which sucks the water from the ground. The water goes into the trough, and the thirsty sheep have something to drink." With a grin missing a tooth, the small boy remarked, "That's good".

Then, as standard with all small children, there are always more questions.

"Grandpa? Is God like the wind? I've heard you say he is everywhere, but I have never seen him". With grandfatherly wisdom and the thumbing back of the old farm hat came the reply, "Yeah. Guess so. I think he plans that people see him when other people show compassion. Immediately, the grandfather realised his mistake. The next question came with a perplexed frown and a voice full of query. "Grandpa! What is comasion?" The farmer's boot scuffed the ground while his wrinkled eyes scanned the horizon as if he might find an answer "out there". Looking into the boy's querying eyes, he answered, "Compassion is when we are kind and caring and show someone they are loved when they are hurting." With understanding came the reply, "Oh! Like when I pricked my thumb on the barb wire an I started to cry, you wiped the blood away with your hanky and kissed it better?" "That's right. That's compassion."

Still not completely satisfied, the next question came with a frown. "Grandpa? How do we get comasion?" Not sure if this would ever end, the old man started to clean the sheep trough while answering, "I believe God puts it in us". **(Ephesians 3:18-19)** "Oh. Hey Grandpa, you remember when I asked you how all the water got under the ground? You said, "God put it there." A hesitant "Yes?" came the reply along with the sound of water running out of the trough. "Hey grandpa? If God puts comasion in us, how does it get out to help people?" With a flash of God-given wisdom, the reply came, "I guess Jesus opens the tap of love in us, and then the compassion can come out, and we can show people we care for them". **(John 13:34)** With a grin, a giggle and the words, "God put comasion in me, an Jesus turns on the tap and lets it run out so I can be kind and help sad people. That's good!" And that solved all the problems. "Hey, Grandpa, can I help clean the trough?"

Kevin