

"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



WHO WOULD BELIEVE IT?

Image thanks to Latrobe City

Having finished a trip on the Walhalla historic rail train (Ruth loves trains) and enjoying an ice cream while chatting with an old-timer, I commented about bushfires threatening their town. To my surprise, he replied that while surrounding areas had suffered, their valley had not been impacted. Then came the interesting bit when he said that at the time of the gold mine closing in the early nineteen hundreds, over the life of the mine, the need for shoring timbers and firing the furnaces, most of the trees in the area had been felled, leaving the area barren and useless. The now thickly wooded mountain area resulted from years of the forest's natural regrowth. Enjoying my ice cream, I thought, "Nature under the hand of a caring God who doesn't believe in anything being left scared and useless – especially people!

Currently, our media continues to inform us we "Must be feeling scared and valueless", and no doubt, for many reasons, many are. Surely, it is time to stop and remind each other of some words from God: "You are precious in my eyes and honoured, and I love you" (**Isaiah 43:4**)

If our loving and caring God can cause barren, treeless mountains to regrow such great trees and flowering plants again, rebuilding value into our personal lives and the lives of those around us is undoubtedly his plan for us. "The mountains may shift, and the hills may be shaken, but my faithful love won't shift from you, and my covenant of peace won't be shaken," says the Lord, the one who loves you." (**Isaiah 54:10**)

Are you feeling cut down, used up, made to feel barren, valueless and unloved? Talk to God about it. Some call it prayer; I call it talking with God. Be prepared to experience something changing – it may be your attitude toward yourself, a confidence that God does care for you, or He may bring someone into your life to help you understand and believe God's plan is for you to grow and flourish in the way he has planned for you.

Remember, if He can make the mountains of Walhalla flourish, what might He do with and for you?

God bless you,

Kevin.