

"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



TRACKS

It's amazing what an assortment of tracks we might walk past and never see or understand. Tracks in the sand can tell a story of who passed by. Tracks of scent wafting through the air that can stir memories thought long gone. Tracks embedded in the brain's memory centres. Tracks we leave behind as we travel through life and tracks, we follow, sometimes intentionally and sometimes without thought as to where they might be leading.

Working with Aboriginal trackers in the Northern Territory I was told there were two things to learn. Know the tracks and know the habits of who or what you are tracking.

Once when working with a Police Tracker in Alice Springs the absconder left the dirt and moved onto the bitumen road where his tracks were lost. The "Tracker" continued along the centre of the bitumen, twice checking the dirt on the side. At the third check, the tracks were found. When I asked why he only checked those places and not all along the side, he answered, "I know him. I know where he likes to go. I know where his cousin lives." A few houses along we found the culprit at his cousin's house.

Jesus left behind tracks of words and actions demonstrating compassionate care and healing towards the lonely, the despised, the outcast, the sick, the blind, the lame, to name a few. His tracks have remained even up to today through words written by followers who, observed what he did, learnt by following his example and then went on and by "doing" creating duplicate tracks for others to follow. Over two thousand years later those tracks have not been wiped out and are still relevant and followed.

There are stories of people perishing in the outback because they failed to recognise and follow animal tracks that could have led to life saving water. That is sad.

However, even sadder is that people fail to recognise the tracks of Jesus through life which if followed lead to knowing and accepting the life saving and enhancing love offered by a loving God. There is no need to stay lost and wandering, crossing over and ignoring Jesus and all he offers.

Working on the great Australian Dog Fence I came across a set of dingo tracks which kept coming and going to and from a kangaroo carcass. Following the tracks showed the mother dingo was taking pieces of the kangaroo to her pups in their den.

Jesus is like that. He will continue tracking back to you, bringing his forgiving love, even though you, from time to time turn away from his tracks and the love he offers.

Look for the tracks he deliberately makes crossing the path of your life and follow them. You will be surprised where they might lead you.

Kevin