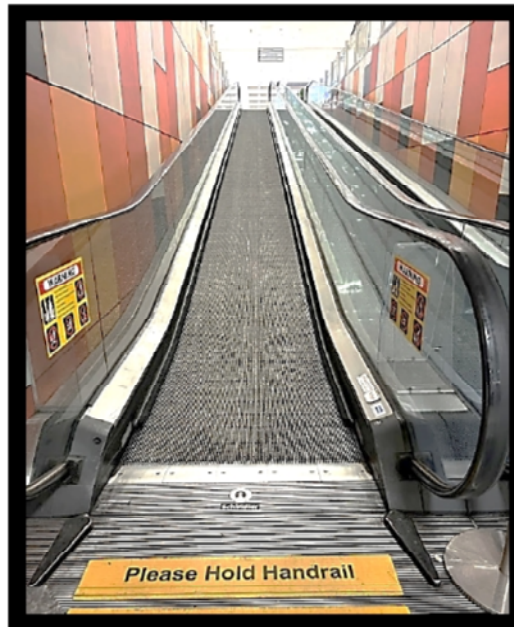


"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



DO NOT ASSUME

I was sure I knew where I was going. I had done it thousands of times, up the Woolies traveller. With complete confidence and coordination, I placed a foot on the traveller and, as instructed, took hold of the handrail.

While my body and mind were well on their usual way, my feet suddenly were not going anywhere. Halfway through doing an embarrassing "face plant", balance restoration took over, and my body moved back upright to join my feet. "Phew! Thank you, God. Knowing where "I" was going, I missed the sign informing "Traveller out of order".

How often do we head off through life fully confident in "My Plans" to get me where I am going? If I religiously attend sports practice, I will one day play on the world stage. Maybe!? I will graduate from university, make a bundle of money, maybe save the world, become famous, and the world will be at my feet. Maybe. I was only going to Woolies and almost finished flat on my face.

There is nothing wrong with dreaming and planning; it is part of how God made us. The problem can come when "I" think "MY" plan is the most important and only one that matters. There are many words through God's Words in the Bible assuring us He has plans for us. In **Jeremiah 29:11**, he says, "For I know my plans for you," says the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." God's plans are filled with love, even though we may not understand or recognise such plans. It is easy to feel, "Yeah, God! Right now, I feel like I'm swimming uphill against the current. Where's your plan?"

What about when we fall on our face because "I" was focused on "MY" plans? Does God say, "Well, I warned you." or "You should have known better. Now, see how you get on!" No! He does not. In God's Word, **Peter 3:9** says, "he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to miss out on his love, but everyone to be sorry and turn around to his plans".

Nothing is working out. You thought the "traveller" was going somewhere, and it's not. Tell God about it. Tell him how you feel, mixed up, disappointed and ask him to help you understand his plans for your life, and expect to go forward.

Cheers, and God bless you,

Kevin.