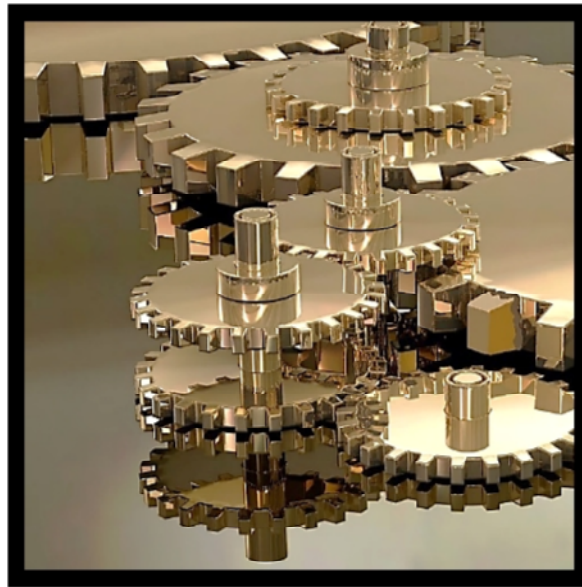


"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



THE VALUE OF COGS THAT MESH

My father was a farmer of the old style. He lived by the code of "Waste not, want not". Hence, after being straightened, old nails were again hammered into use. On one occasion, a cog had a tooth break off. With cog, broken tooth, and the statement, "Merv (the neighbour) is a good welder. He can fix this". He was gone, to eventually return with the repaired cog and a matter of fact, "I knew he could". With a bit of "wearing in", the intermittent clinks disappeared and the wear from rubbing along with the other teeth; in time, it worked "just like a bought one", like it was designed to,

Our world, community, friends and family are a bit like the cogs and teeth of that machine. While all the parts mesh together, there is harmony as the loving God designed.

Sadly, sometimes, circumstances will cause relationships to twist and possibly break.

A word, a look, or an attitude can cause a family where members meshed so happily together to grind and snap, causing hurt, heartache, and unexpected dysfunction.

Friendships that had sworn everlasting commitment become laced with anger, hurt and resentment because of a tiny grain of misunderstanding, and a relationship that once worked like clockwork squealed and shuddered to a jarring stop.

Marriages, workplace relationships, sporting teammates, drinking mates, and members of a social organisation can all happily move through life rubbing against each other, intermeshing with everything running smoothly.

Suddenly, a spanner is thrown into the cogs, or a matter of discontent slowly wearing away for some time causes the "lock-up!" and a painful stop. Such breakdowns affect those immediately involved and often other friends, family members or teammates. It doesn't have to end there. Remember Dad's "Fix-it" neighbour and friend.

There is a friend, a mate who wants to help. Jesus says, "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed." **(Psalm 34:18)**

A loving heavenly Father tells us, "I am the LORD, the God of all humankind. Is anything too hard for me? **(Jeremiah 32:27)** Do not forget the words of Jesus that confirm he wants us to have a great life where we intermesh together, working to make all relationships work and be filled with love – one cog happily working along with the others around and all greased with his forgiving love, and meshed into his love and passion, he said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." **(John 10:10)**

May you know and enjoy his love and support meshing into your daily life.

Kevin.