



**Well, well, well. That was the dad joke you were expecting in last Sunday's sermon, wasn't it!**

Actually, in honour of Father's Day this coming Sunday, let me give you one more!

*My dad said the other day when I was feeling low. "Cheer up! Things could be worse. You could be stuck in an underground hole full of water." I know he means well.*

That one did make me laugh!

**Talk of wells, however, reminds me of one of my children's favourite children's books - *Tikki Tikki Tembo*.** Do some of you know it? It is a story about a woman with two sons, the first of whom she calls *Tikki tikki tembo-no sa rembo-chari bari ruchi-pip peri pembo* which means 'the most wonderful thing in the whole wide world', but the second she calls *Chang* which means 'little or nothing'.

When the younger son falls into the well, he is quickly rescued (because his name is easy to say and the alert is quickly given), but when the older son falls into the well, his name takes so long to say (and his mother insists on it being said correctly) that he is close to death before he is finally rescued. This is why, the story concludes, Chinese people now give their children short names.

This is not true, of course, and this story is not even of Chinese origin. It comes from the Japanese storytelling tradition, *rakugo*, and in that story a couple can't think of a suitable name for their newborn son, so the father goes to the temple and asks the priest for ideas, and the priest suggests, *Jugemu* (meaning 'limitless life') along with several other names. The father, however, can't decide which name he prefers, so he gives the baby all the names!

So the baby's name is:

Jugemu Jugemu (寿限無 寿限無)

Gokō-no Surikire (五劫の擦り切れ)

Kaijarisuigyo-no (海砂利水魚の)

Suigyōmatsu Unraimatsu Fūraimatsu (水行末 雲来末 風来末)

Kuunerutokoro-ni Sumutokoro (食う寝る処に住む処)

Yaburakōji-no Burakōji (やぶら柑子のぶら柑子)

Paipopaipo Paipo-no Shūringan (パイポパイポパイポのシューリングン)

Shūringan-no Gūrindai (シューリングンのゲーリンダイ)

Gūrindai-no Ponpokopi-no Ponpokonā-no (ゲーリンダイのポンポコピーのポンポコナーの)

Chōkyūmei-no Chōsuke (長久命の長助)

And similar well-related shenanigans take place!

What my children loved about this story – apart from the story itself – is that whenever Aron read it, he could never get Tikki Tikki Tembo's name right! He was always jumbling it up, and the kids delighted in correcting him and making him say it again, and again and again and again... It was a joke with limitless life! I sometimes suspect Aron was playing along, but if he was, he was a VERY good actor!

**The point of the story, however, is not that children should receive short names (though these can be useful in emergencies!) but that all our children, all human beings, all human lives are of equal value.**

I have been thinking about this, readying myself for Simon Carey Holt's funeral this Friday, 4th Sept, at 11am. *(If you are wanting to watch, the service will be screened by Bethel Funerals and the link is here - <https://www.vividstream.com.au/live/rev-dr-simon-holt>)* Those who knew and loved Simon are rightfully feeling the depth of this grief and loss. At the same time, the death toll in Nepal has now exceeded 1000, with 4,500 still missing, and those people are also, equally, being deeply grieved by husbands and wives, parents and children and friends.

**All human lives are equal and all people are precious to God. "The Lord is good to all," says Psalm 145:9, "and his compassion is over all that he has made."**

Let us continue to keep all who are mourning in our prayers and continue to demonstrate the compassion of God.

Belinda

PS On Sunday, in the service, we provided the details for Baptist World Aid's Nepal Appeal raising funds for:

- Emergency food kits, including potatoes, lentils, onions and oil, so displaced families will not go hungry,
- Emergency shelter items so families can stay safe in the aftermath of the floods,
- Clothes and household items (e.g. kitchen utensils) so households can take care of their immediate needs.

### YES, I'LL GIVE

Felicity Volk, a member of our congregation, is one of the directors of the Australian Himalayan Foundation, and they have also launched an appeal to help deliver emergency response and recover to affected families. As Felicity said, all the organisations are doing their best in this situation, so people should feel comfortable giving to any of them, but if you would like to give through AHF, the link is here - <https://www.australianhimalayanfoundation.org.au/2026-nepal-floods>