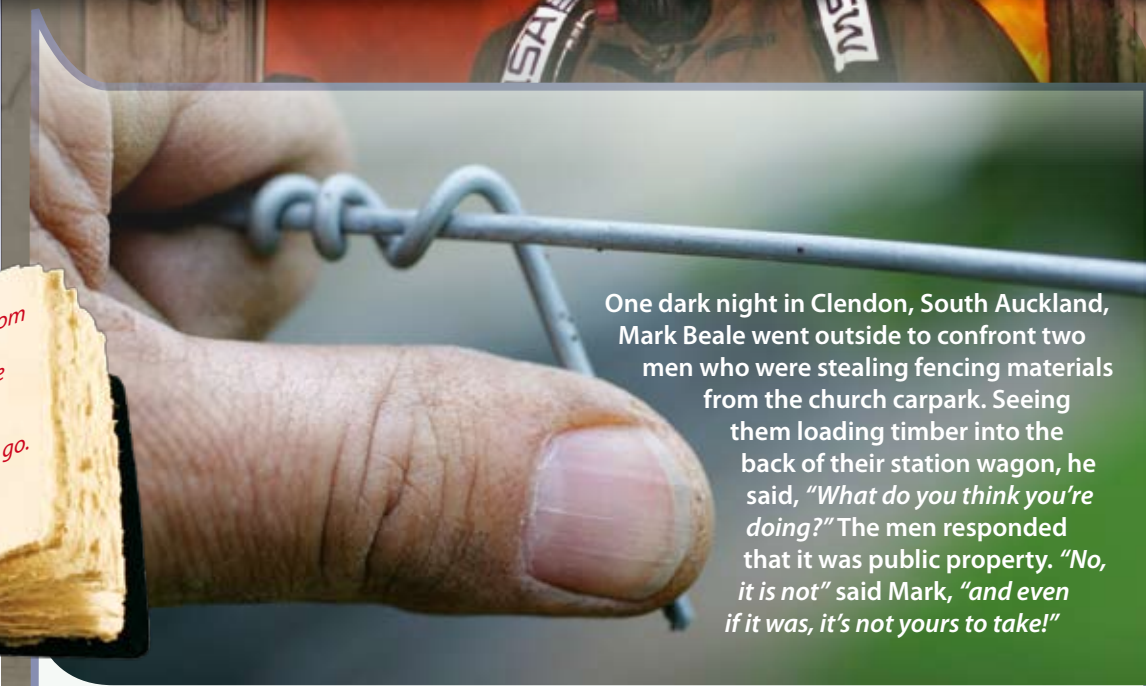
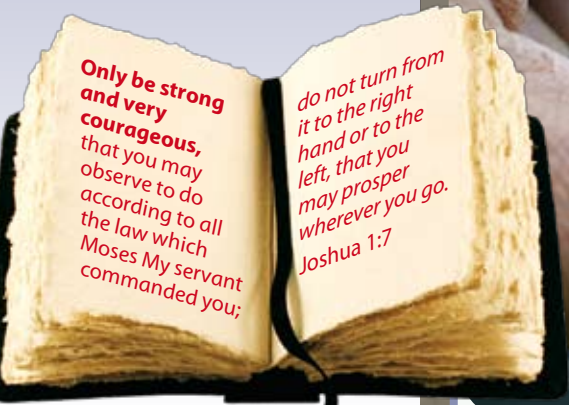


PK WISE CHOICES

COURAGE

THE INSIDE RUNNING



One dark night in Clendon, South Auckland, Mark Beale went outside to confront two men who were stealing fencing materials from the church carpark. Seeing them loading timber into the back of their station wagon, he said, "What do you think you're doing?" The men responded that it was public property. "No, it is not" said Mark, "and even if it was, it's not yours to take!"

Out of integrity comes courage. What we believe is at the core of how we live, act and treat others. That's why Christians should be known by our deeds because we are living out of the overflow from our hearts.

This can also be intimidating if we are not prepared to trust God and His plans. Most Christian martyrs died not knowing what impact their sacrifice would have. I read that in the concentration camps of WWII, a man observed that the good died first because they stood up for others.

Sometimes we need courage for big, dramatic things and sometimes we need courage just to get up and face the day. Mark Beale has been involved in Promise Keepers for many years and is currently Board Chairman. As you read this newsletter I am sure you will understand how he has lived courageously over many years. God encourages us all to be strong and courageous!

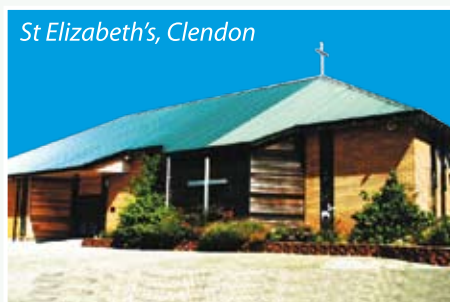
John

John Subritzky

"What are you going to do about it?" one of the men asked. Mark responded by going to the back of their car and throwing the timber back out. Then the guy said, "I'm going to beat you up". Mark said, "I wouldn't do that if I were you, God will zap you and that's you gone!" At that, both men turned as white as a sheet, ran and jumped in the car and wheel spun off down the road, dropping timber from the open back door.

Okay, so Mark goes in where angels may be reluctant. Or maybe the men saw an angel behind Mark.

Mark has chosen to invest his life into the community of Clendon, planting an Anglican church into a multi-ethnic, decile one area where mainline churches usually struggle. He believes in standing his ground, especially for faith, morality, and as the story illustrates, physically as well. He says you have to stand up for people - community - even when the going gets tough. When three murders in two months brought national media attention, Mark was in the news pointing out the good parts of the community. Mark believes in being authentic and respectful, and trusting people even when that makes him vulnerable. Although he says he has had to discover a balance between being open and transparent, and not being a mug. With his family, he has experienced life in



St Elizabeth's, Clendon

Clendon - he hasn't isolated or protected himself. He was told that the schools were no good, but to be authentic he sent his kids there anyway. He believes that God honours actions, if they are done for the right reasons. All his children got bursaries and graduated from tertiary courses. Three of them have bought houses in the area and continue to be very involved in church life at St Elizabeth's.

Men have been casualties of the obsession with political correctness, in Mark's view. The biggest inequality and marginalisation has been men. Mark has deliberately focused his attention on discipling and developing men.

Today, St Elizabeth's is a strong church community because of the presence and involvement of men. Mark says when you address inequality, you open yourself up to misrepresentation. That happened when all the parishes were invited to create a display of their key ministries at the Cathedral. St Elizabeth's display was about creating a bloke-friendly church. This offended some of the women, who then complained to the Bishop. He refused to censor or criticise Mark, saying that at least he was doing something for men in the church!

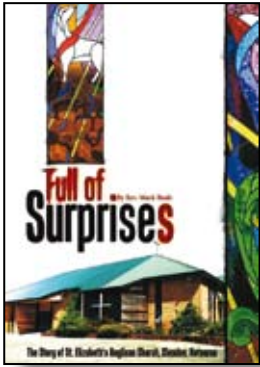
Over the years, Mark has acted courageously as he has lived out his deep convictions.

By J. Subritzky



Mark Beale

FULL OF SURPRISES



This is the story of an Anglican church that defied the odds and won; of a country church that chose to die in order to birth a new vision; of a low-decile community that has created a dynamic

multiracial servant community; of a diocese that risked putting funding into a new mission; and of a priest and his family who stood to their calling and now celebrate its fulfilment.

There are many things to learn for new church planting and for all local churches in this important story.

What may be less explicit in this book is the remarkable mix of gifts the parish priest, Mark Beale, brought to this task. He combines Anglo-Catholic sacramentality with Pentecostal spirituality; evangelical preaching with practical hands-on social justice work. Is graffiti a scourge? Organise a graffiti-busting ministry. Are housing costs a local problem? Acquire land and build not-for-profit housing. As a result Mark Beale has street cred with the community and local and national politicians without precedent in South Auckland. And it all comes from a firm and explicit faith foundation.

From book preface by The Rev Dr Don Battley.
Book available from Promise Keepers \$35 +P&P

A current trend is for churches to "get out into the community". St Elizabeth's has been doing just that for many years. Initiatives are launched from the basis of a vibrant congregation that has a loving and serving heart. The attention of the men is also captured by big projects.

Wanting to make the area better by cleaning up graffiti started with the youth group painting out tagging one Saturday. Mark quickly realised that although that was good, it would be futile if it wasn't ongoing. This eventually led to the establishment of the Manukau Beautification Trust. Today the trust has 31 full-time employees and a budget of \$1.5 million annually. It is a nationwide leader in graffiti removal and is consulted by other councils and the Government. It now has a contract to plant the main trunk rail corridor in South Auckland with native plants so that instead of trains going through ugly backyards and industrial areas, they will go through native bush.

Mark has been involved in Promise Keepers and Alpha courses for many years. Both these ministries have had a significant impact on the church. Mark credits his church's involvement with the Promise Keepers choir for giving an outward focus for his men.

The church has also been involved in events, running "Christmas in the Park" on behalf of the Council. This is a free event, which is fully sponsored and is growing in popularity. Last year, the vision



for events grew again, with "The Big Soup" getting a Guinness Book of World Records title. The soup was repacked from a tanker truck into containers and distributed to schools and rest homes. Watch out for

the world's biggest pancake coming next! Proof that a small church in a difficult area can have a big impact.

Excerpt from Men of Integrity Jan/Feb 09

Tried and True

Thursday, February 5

Courage Where It Counts

Key Bible Verse: Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it (James 4:17). **Bonus Reading:** Luke 12:42-47

The problem with looking to Hollywood for the image of masculinity (even those true-to-life stories of courage) is that it feeds my desire for glory. Courage isn't only in the big accomplishments. It's in the small acts too.

When I leave the theater and scratch the car door next to me getting into my car, my decision about whether or not to leave a note admitting my mistake isn't glorious. Nobody will make a movie about my choice. I can hide if I choose to. But situations like this shape our courage and virtue.

Or imagine leaving the theater and returning home to a wife who is sexually unresponsive. Or perpetually angry. Or domineering. Or unkempt. The temptation to find release and

fulfillment elsewhere can be overwhelming. Escape promises what reality can't provide. Our response in that moment can be just as courageous as what we do when we decide to protect a fallen pilot or storm a cockpit.

Courage is visiting our moms and dads and caring for them as they grow older instead of abandoning them to others' care. Courage is integrity in business when no one else sees it, or keeping my promise when I'd rather do anything else. Hollywood doesn't make movies about this true masculine courage.

—Mike Erre in
Why Guys Need God

My Response: Although no one will see, I need to practice integrity by...

Thought to Apply: When faithfulness is most difficult, it is most necessary.
—SOURCE UNKNOWN

FORGING TOMORROW'S MEN

Dunedin 31 July - 1 August | Christchurch 14 - 15 August | Tauranga 28 - 29 August
Wellington 11 - 12 September | Auckland 9 - 10 October

