

*Read your Bible, pray every day.....
and you'll grow, Grow, GROW.*

So went the words of a song I remember very clearly from my Brigade (and school) days. We adults can appreciate that this is spiritual growth that the song is talking about, but the song did confuse one young man I know. When he was aged about six he suddenly started reading his Bible devoutly so that he could catch up with his big brother who was leaving him behind in physical feats...

Being 'Grown-up'

When you are young, being 'grown-up' or 'growing' is usually held before you as a prize. Being able to see movies with age restrictions (well that was the case in my day!), being able to do 'grownup' things like stay out late (obviously I grew up in prehistoric times) and join the adult conversation at meals... Driving a car, voting, leaving home altogether... And you could always rely on relatives you only saw periodically to note that 'My, but you had grown'. However, 'growing' is not always such a compliment as an adult, as it usually is a reference to having 'grown sideways' or put on weight!

Development

As the schools and youth organisations go back, rested and renewed, there is a sense of progression. As the young people have grown physically and in their abilities, they move up a class and have new teachers and youth leaders, and perhaps are even involved in new sections. As they grow and develop their skills in academics, sport and physical activities, social interaction and confidence, my prayer is that their souls are ALSO nourished.

Christian Diet

All the advice given in the media and by medical practitioners is that a healthy diet is based on vegetables not desserts, which sounds bland and boring. But those staples, cooked properly, are very satisfying and nutritious. The staples of a

**If God brings you to it,
He will bring you through it.**

A Bird's Eye View

Christian diet will also satisfy and, unlike a physical appetite, the more time you spend reading and praying, the more time you will *want* to spend reading and praying, as your spirit grows.

'Adult' Sunday School

The recent 'Return to Sunday School' programme has proved very popular with a merry band of twenty signing up to 'Unlock the Scriptures' with Jerome before the service on Sunday mornings.

This is interesting. This is not the sign of 'growing fat'; these are people who understand that they need to feed their souls on the staples.

Leaders of Organisations

I pray for the leaders of our young people who are part of this congregation – the school teachers, leaders of the organisations within the church on Sunday AND the Brigades during the week. May they receive from your Spirit through reading the Bible for themselves.

May they learn more about prayer and be able to nourish the young souls in their care.

Young People

I pray for the young people – all of them - from the baby group to the Grid, those who attend on Sundays and throughout the week, those who are fed by the helpers at the Storyclub at St Margaret's and those who have the chance to interact with the chaplains at the high schools.

May they grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

*With all love
Jenny Wren*



Thought for the Day

God wants you to continue to grow and be fruitful; to know blessing upon blessing and to explore, even deeper, the depths of His amazing love

Roy Lessin