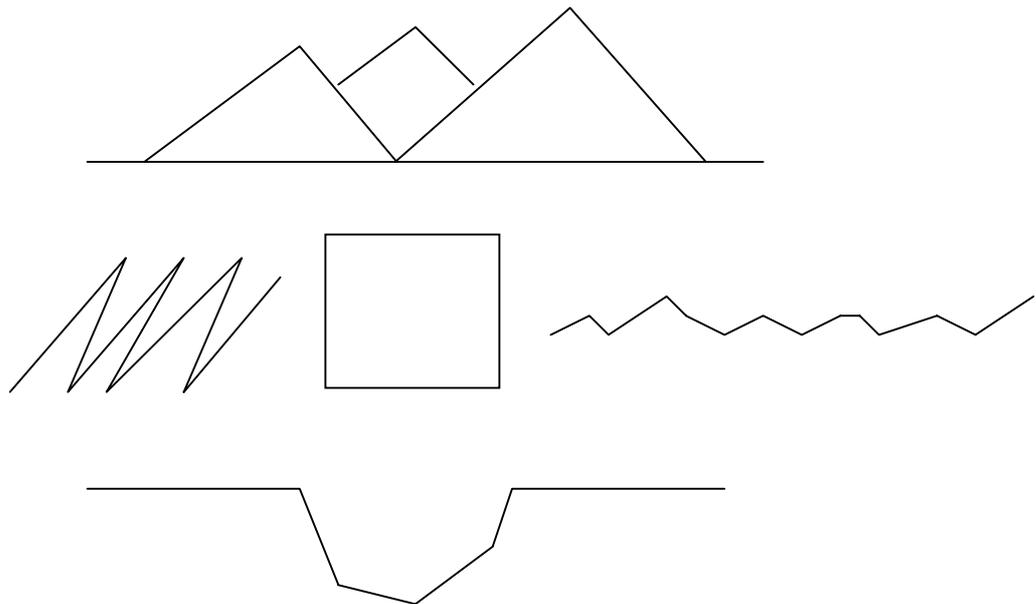


PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

(Kaikohe CF - 16/2/97 – EKB)

1. God's Highway has to be prepared before He can come and reveal His glory and salvation to all flesh.
2. *Isaiah 40:3-5, Luke 3:4-6, Malachi 3:1a*, are our basic readings. Please read these through.
3. Promised revival tarries until we do our part and prepare the Lord's way. When His Way is ready, He will come.
4. The Highway of the Lord runs through our heart.
Is 35:8 says it is the Highway of Holiness.
5. There are 4 main areas in which we have to prepare the Lord's Way, *Lk 3:4-6*.
 - a. the valleys must be filled
 - b. the mountains and hills brought low
 - c. the crooked places made straight
 - d. the rough places made smooth.



6. Last weekend, travelling north, we passed through major road works at Brynderwyn and Hukerenui, where huge earth-moving machines were scraping down mountains and hills to fill up the valleys, and removing corners to make a straight, level, smooth road, so that we might in future, travel more easily. God's Word uses this picture for us.
7. Our hearts contain valleys, hills, crooked places and rough ways, which need to be removed so that the Highway of the Lord may be built.
8. **The valleys** are fears and insecurities - fears of hurt, loss, ridicule, rejection death, and many others - thoughts of inability, insecurity, anxiety, inferiority and the like - disappointment, despair, discouragement, heaviness and condemnation. These have to be

removed because they are obstacles to the Holy Spirit flowing freely through us to bring people to Christ.

9. **Five Steps to Freedom are:**

- a. Recognise the valley - admit it, *Pro 28:13*.
- b. Reject and refuse it.
- c. Repent and turn away from it, *Ac 2:38*.
- d. Receive the promises of God to fully set you free.
- e. Rejoice daily in the fact that God, by His promise and power, has released you, and filled you with the life of Jesus Christ.
- f. Resist the spirit of fear when necessary, by Jesus' Blood and Name.

10. **Promises of God's Word to free us from fear and replace it with Christ's life of boldness and confidence.**

2Tim 1:7 God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind.

Josh 1:9 Be strong and of good courage, fear not nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Pro 3:26 The Lord will be your confidence.

Is 41:10 Fear not for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God, I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with the right hand of My righteousness.

Also *Ac 18:9,10, Lk 5:10, Mk 6:50b, Is 43:1-3, Is 44:8, Phil 4:13, Pro 28:1, Pro 3:26, Pro 14:26, 1Jn 4:4, Ac 4:13,20.*

11. **The mountains and hills made low.** When we look down on another in a critical, despising, judging way, we have climbed up on our hill of pride and become displeasing to God.

Mat 7:1,2, Jam 4:11,12, 1Pet 5:5,6, Jam 4:6,10. Jesus gives us the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector to illustrate the point in *Lk 18:9-14*. Some are "stuck up", "on their high horse," "looking down on others," in a "haughty" way, and Jesus said, "Whoever lifts himself up will be brought down, but whoever humbles himself will be lifted up."

When we resist the Word of God we are acting in pride and God says to us in *Jer 13:15*, "Hear and give ear, do not be proud, for the Lord has spoken." To speak evil of another brother or sister in Christ is to judge the other and speak evil of God's Law, *Jam 4:11,12*, which says, "Love your neighbour" as yourself, *Jam 2:8*. These mountains must be removed to prepare the way of the Lord so that many will come to Christ through us.

12. So confess these mountains of pride, *Pro 28:13*.

Refuse to have them in your life, *Ac 3:19*.

Believe God's promises of freedom and change, *Jn 8:31,32*.

Rejoice in the Lord and His Word and keep filled with His Spirit, *Eph 5:19*.

13. **The Word that brings freedom:**

Mat 20:28 Jesus said, "The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His Life a ransom for many."

Jn 13:14 Jesus said, "If I your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."

Gal 5:13 "By love serve one another."

Mk 11:25,26 "Forgive."

Rom 6:2,6,11, Rom 8:2, Gal 2:20, Col 3:3, Col 1:27, Phil 2:7,8, Lk 9:23, Rom 12:3, Rom 14:4, 1Jn 4:4, Phil 2:13(GNB), Is 66:1,2, Pro 3;7,8, Eph 4:1-3.

14. **The crooked places** are made straight when we refuse and repent of lies, untruth, pretence, putting on a show to impress others, acting like an angel at church and living like the devil at home, telling untruths about other people, and putting our religious traditions before the Word of God, *Mk 7:13*.
Jn 8:44 Jesus said, “The devil is the father of lies.”
Ac 5:4 Ananias and Sapphira lied to the apostles and to God, and the result was swift judgment.
15. So confess these crooked places, *1Jn 1:9*.
 Refuse to have them in your life, *Rom 6:14*.
 Believe the Word of God to set you free, *Mk 9:23*.
 And keep full of God’s Spirit, *Rom 8:2*.
16. **God’s Word and power bring freedom from lies and untruth. Christ is the truth and lives in us**, *Jn 14:6, Gal 2:20*. The Holy Spirit is truth and lives in us, *Jn 16:13, 1Jn 5:6*. God’s Word is truth and we believe it, *Jn 17:17, Jn 8:31,32, Ps 119:160*. The anointing we have is truth, *1Jn 2:27, Eph 4:15,25, Mat 15:3,6, Ex 20:16, Mat 22:29*.
- Choose today, honesty, openness and truthfulness. Keep telling yourself the truth, watch what you say. Do not speak any untruth about yourself. Confess what God’s Word says about you. Keep speaking truth to others. Build them up in God’s Word and truth, always.
17. **The rough places** of upset and broken relationships are caused by envy, strife and division, *1Cor 3:3*. Selfishness and self-seeking result in arguments, anger, strife, hate, lust and immorality, *1Cor 5:1,11,13*, drugs, stealing, and as a result relationships fall apart, *1Cor 6:9,10, Eph 4:31*.
 Zacchaeus, in *Lk 19:1-10*, was a tax collector for the Romans, and by lying, cheating, stealing and taking more than he should, became very rich. He was living to get all he could at the expense of others, and as a result was hated by everyone in Jericho.
18. So confess these rough places caused by selfishness and greed.
 Refuse to live for self and consider Jesus, *Mat 20:28*.
 Believe God’s Word to give you a new heart, *Ezek 36:25-27*.
 And live to give more than you get, *Lk 6:27-38, 2Cor 9:7*.
19. **Faith in God’s word changes the selfish, self-seeking heart to one that blesses and meets the needs of others**, building up relationships, not destroying them.
Gal 6:10 “do good to all, and especially to the believers.”
Eph 4:32 “Be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven you.”
1Jn 4:7-12 “Beloved let us love one another, for love is of God.”
1Tim 6:6 “Contentment with godliness is great gain.”
Is 32:17 Righteousness and right actions produce peace.
1Jn 3:17 If you can, meet your brother/sister’s need, now.
Mat 25:35,36, Lk 10:33-35, 1Cor 12:25.
 As we care for one another, the fellowship of God’s people is built secure and strong.
20. Once we have prepared the way of the Lord, He promises to come in His glory and power, so that all the people among whom we dwell will see His salvation, *Lk 3:6*.

21. **Please make every effort to be sure that your heart** is prepared to be a highway for our God. We need revival now. It has arrived at Brownsville Assembly of God, Pensacola, USA, and we can have it here too.