



ARNDELL ANGLICAN COLLEGE

"News Flash"

Friday 20 August 2010



From the Headmaster:

Mr Gareth Leechman MA MEd MACE MACEL

In this week's newsflash I chose to share with you this week's reflection from the senior school chapel service, I think there is a lot we can all learn from Deborah. This reflection was largely based from an excellent reflection I found on the web at http://www.essortment.com/all/deborahjudge_rsui.htm. So I shall not take the credit.

The Old Testament: Deborah the Judge

Deborah was the only woman to be judge of Israel. Her courage, humility and faith teach us a great deal about how we should serve God.

Deborah is a unique character in the Bible. She is the only woman to be a Judge of Israel. Her story takes place between the years 1209 and 1169 B.C. She was a prophetess and Judge of Israel, the equivalent of king. How she came to be chosen for this position is not recorded but it is evident in her story that her leadership was honoured. As Judge, she was also leader of the army of Israel. Deborah's story is found in Judges Books Four and Five.

The first thing that becomes obvious about the story of Deborah is how much it is like the story of Christ. Over and over again in the Old Testament, we see the Israelites ending up oppressed, often as a consequence of their own actions. And over and over again, we see God send a deliverer to rescue the Israelites. God seems to enjoy sending deliverers that the people would not expect. In those days they certainly wouldn't have expected a woman to deliver them from the Canaanites. Jesus was not the Messiah that the Pharisees expected either. Yet, both deliverers got the job done.

Jabin ruled the Canaanites and the captain of their army was Sisera. The Canaanite army had 900 iron chariots and many more warriors to boot. Poor Israel had only 10,000 warriors; they were badly outnumbered. Outnumbered or not, God tells Deborah to instruct Barak, her general, to take their 10,000 soldiers up to the River Kishon on Mount Tabor. There, God would send Sisera and his 900 iron chariots and the Canaanite soldiers. God tells Deborah that the Israelites will win the battle. (Judges 4:6-7)

Barak says he'll obey this command only if Deborah accompanies him. She agrees. This general is given a prophecy that his army will win but won't go to battle without Deborah. We can discern two things from this: that Barak had incredible faith in Deborah, if not in God, and that Deborah was a courageous and faithful woman.

Here we sit 3,500 years later and women are not allowed by our government to serve on the front lines. Yet Deborah was not only going to serve on the front lines but lead the battle! This alone is astonishing for the times. That Deborah would be so willing is almost unbelievable. When God asks us to do things that seem outrageous or impossible, how willing are we to go ahead and do them? Deborah teaches us that with God all things are possible. No person is useless or not good enough to serve God. And, when we are willing to obey Him, God can work through us to achieve incredible victories, even against terrible odds.

Deborah doesn't take any credit for her actions or for the victory their army was to enjoy. In Judges 4:8, she tells Barak that the honour will not be for him but for God. Her humility is a lesson to us. Too often, we are quick to grab the glory of our successes instead of thanking God for them. Jesus taught "Whosoever humbles himself as this little child, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:4 KJV)

Deborah's story is largely about success against all odds. Though everything about the times and the culture was against Deborah serving as the leader of the nation, she did. Though her army was vastly outnumbered, they won. Though her enemy tried to hide among sympathizers, one he believed to be on his side killed him anyway. Deborah didn't allow the circumstances around her to overwhelm her or interfere with her belief in God's promises to her.

Deborah's courage and humility are models for us. She kept her eyes focused on God and not the circumstances around her. She gave God the glory for the victory and she thanked Him specifically for what He did for her and her country. She reminds us that we all have the potential to do great things for God if we will only listen, trust and obey.

Calendar Dates for August

Monday 23 Aug	Tuesday 24 Aug	Wednesday 25 Aug	Thursday 26 Aug	Friday 27 Aug	Saturday 28 Aug	Sunday 29 Aug
Assessments Due: Yr 9 Maths – all levels HSC Trials	Assessments Due: Yr 9 Food Tech Yr 8 Geography HICES Primary Athletics – Homebush Rehearsal for PA Broadway (JLPA centre) Yr 10 PASS (Lawn Bowls) Richmond Club, Richmond HSC Trials	Assessments Due: Yr 7 Geography Yr 11 Legal Studies HZSA Athletics Carnival (Secondary) – Olympic Park Arndell Talent Spectacular Auditions P & F Meeting – JS Library HSC Trials	Assessments Due: Yr 11 Textiles & Design Arndell Talent Spectacular Auditions Jnr. School Photography Club HSC Trials	Senior School Assembly Jnr School Chapel Evening Performance 'A Night on Broadway' JLPA Centre HSC Trials	K. Toms Dancing Club Drama Rooms – JLPA Centre Evening Performance 'A Night on Broadway' JLPA Centre	Community Church JLPA Centre
Monday 30 Aug	Tuesday 31 Aug	Wednesday 1 Sept	Thursday 2 Sept	Friday 3 Sept	Saturday 4 Sept	Sunday 5 Sept
Assessments Due: Yr 10 Athletics HSC Trials HICES G & T Camp	Assessments Due: Yr 10 Commerce HICES G & T Camp	HSC Showcase - JLPA Centre HICES G & T Camp	Yr 11 Exams Jnr. School Photography Club THRASS Information Evening 6.30pm Jnr. School Learning Centre HICES G & T Camp	Yr 11 Exams Senior School Assembly Jnr School Chapel ASC Netball Carnival - Kellyville Jnr School Father's Day Stall Arndell Talent Spectacular 7.30pm JLPA Centre HICES G & T Camp	K. Toms Dancing Club Drama Rooms – JLPA Centre	Community Church JLPA Centre Father's Day
Monday 6 Sept	Tuesday 7 Sept	Wednesday 8 Sept	Thursday 9 Sept	Friday 10 Sept	Saturday 11 Sept	Sunday 12 Sept
Change to Summer Uniform AICES Sec. Athletics Sydney Olympic Park Yr 11 Exams HSC Marking (Music)	Assessments Due: Yr 8 Geography Yr 10 PASS (Lawn Bowls) Richmond Yr 11 Exams HSC Marking (Music)	Assessments Due: Yr 10 Food Tech Yr 7 & 9 Geography Yr 11 Tennis – Richmond Yr 11 Exams HSC Marking (Music)	Assessments Due: Yr 10 & 11 Timber Yr 11 Ind. Tech Yr 10 Graphics Yr 9 Wood Tech & Commerce Yr 5/8 Hawkesbury Eisteddfod Yr 12 Society & Culture Exc. Jnr. School Photography Club HSC Marking (Music)	Snr. School Assembly Jnr. School (Primary) Chapel Yr 5/8 Hawkesbury Eisteddfod Yr 12 Ext 1 English Exc. HSC Marking (Music)	K. Toms Dancing Club Drama Rooms – JLPA Centre	Community Church JLPA Centre