

## ***Who Is Writing the Script For Your Life?***

### ***Notes for a talk to Nite Church at St Paul's Anglican, Boronia, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2005***

*Who was the first American President to declare a war on terrorism?*

*Ted Roosevelt (after Teddy Bear). In Sep 1901 (100 years before). McKinlay was assassinated. New Pres called for a worldwide crusade to eliminate terrorism everywhere.*

*Did it work then? Will it work now?*

*Those who do not study history will be forced to repeat it.*

*The Question: Whose script for your life are you following?*

*Lots of people want to write a script for your life, a script to follow. Are you going to let them? Who's script will you follow?*

*Types of scripts:*

*Your parents*

*Your generation*

*Your feelings or urges*

*Your personality type*

*Your job or profession*

*Your Lord and Master*

*The Answer is a Question: What Would Jesus Do?*

*God has a plan for your life. Russel Fragar "Before the world began, you were on his mind." Sculpture.*

### ***Your Parents Scripts?***

*Engineer sons of engineers*

*Middle class children of middle class parents*

*Compare to grandfathers, gt grandfathers? More choice today than ever before. Don't waste it.*

*Bad scripts:*

*Children of abusers who marry abusers*

*Children of criminals who end up in gaol*

*The reality you know, even abusive realities, often seem comfortable.*

### ***Your Generation Scripts?***

<i>Influence</i>	<i>Baby Boomer</i>	<i>Generation X</i>	<i>Generation Y</i>
<i>Role Models</i>	<i>Men of Character</i>	<i>Men &amp; Women of Character</i>	<i>What is Character?</i>
<i>Television</i>	<i>I Love Lucy</i>	<i>Happy Days</i>	<i>Jerry Springer</i>
<i>Musical Icons</i>	<i>Elvis Presley</i>	<i>Madonna</i>	<i>Eminem</i>
<i>Music Mediums</i>	<i>LPs &amp; EPs</i>	<i>Cassettes &amp; CDs</i>	<i>MP3's &amp; iPods</i>
<i>Computer Games</i>	<i>Pong</i>	<i>Pac man</i>	<i>Street Fighter</i>
<i>Money</i>	<i>Earn it</i>	<i>It is not everything</i>	<i>Give it to me</i>
<i>Loyalty to Employer</i>	<i>Work my way to the Top</i>	<i>Shortcut to the top</i>	<i>Give me Saturday off or I'll quit</i>
<i>Respecting your elders</i>	<i>Automatic</i>	<i>Is polite</i>	<i>Whatever!</i>
<i>Sex</i>	<i>After marriage</i>	<i>On the backseat</i>	<i>Online</i>
<i>Change</i>	<i>Resist it</i>	<i>Accept it</i>	<i>Want it</i>
<i>Technology</i>	<i>Ignorant of it</i>	<i>Comfortable with it</i>	<i>Masters of it</i>
<i>Justice</i>	<i>Always prevails</i>	<i>Up to the courts</i>	<i>If you can afford it</i>

So many people STILL live in their generational world. They don't even recognise that generations are different. "it was just like that when I was a kid in the 60s." NO.

But should we allow ourselves to pigeon-holed. I'm a Baby Boomer, but I know who Powderfinger are. If someone defines you as a Gen Y, does it mean you can't know who Peter, Paul and Mary are /were?

Who's writing the script for your life?

### **Your feelings or urges?**

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Do what you like.

If it feels good, do it.

Leads to decisions that are self-centred and devoid of responsibility for others.

Charles Wellborn, writing in Christianity Today:

*In an age in which all of us are bombarded with television advertisements--and, indeed, programs--which constantly tell us that happiness consists in what we can buy, is it surprising that the underclass in our society who cannot financially afford all the luxuries they see paraded before them on television decide to steal or loot them? If "pleasure" is the end of all life, and if "pleasure" means the acquisition of goods, then why not use any means to obtain them? Why should others have them, when you do not? The "greasy thumbprint" of human sin leaves its mark here, as everywhere.*

*We need to discover the pleasure that comes from knowing what God wants for our lives. And the pleasure/blessing in doing it. But more later...*

### **Your personality type?**

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*MBTI? Carl Jung reckoned there were 4 things that determined personality differences. These 4 things described the way we experience the world and process that experience. For each of these 4 things, there are two types.*

*The first idea was that some people experience the world through their senses. Touch, feel, see, smell. While others experience the world through intuition. Come into a room and sense something is not right, and then see that the drawers are open. Burglar.*

*The second idea has to do with how we process information. Do we use our Thinking or our Feelings? Jung observed that some people processed the information from their senses or intuition with the mind (Thinking), while others were more likely to process information through their feelings.*

*A third factor had to do with how quickly a person comes to a decision, or how long they keep their options open, waiting for more information.*

*And the 4<sup>th</sup> factor had to do with whether a person related to others in extroverted or introverted ways.*

*Because there were 4 factors he was able to describe 16 different personality types which, he said, covered all human beings.*

*Out of this evolved a simple test called the Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator, the MBTI. It is used a lot in business today. You will...*

*Lots of people find the MBTI experience very revealing about themselves. They do the test. Discover which of the 16 types they are. Read the description and go WOW, that IS me. How did they know?*

*The problem is that it is an INDICATOR. Too many people think it is a script for their lives. They start saying "well of course I behave that way because that's my personality type." They let the personality test become a script for never changing, never growing.*

*Yet personality tests, intelligence test, emotional intelligence tests, yes, even Higher School Certificates are not scripts. I might be right-handed, prefer to use my right hand, but it does not mean I cannot use my left. Or both.*

*I may live in 3155, but it's only a postcode. I don't have to live here. I can move. What opportunities will you miss, if you let 3155 become a script for your whole life?*

### ***Your profession or job?***

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*The rules or traditions of your job get in the way of doing good work.*

**Semmelweis.** *Near Wurzingergasse where we lived in Vienna. Dr Semmelweis discovered how to stop people dying from Childbed Fever. 150 years ago, 1 in 6 women who delivered in a hospital caught and died from Childbed Fever.*

*Before our modern understanding of germs and contagiousness.*

*Tradition. Autopsies in the morning, followed by ward rounds. Cut up a body. Wipe your bloodied hands on your white coat. Go inspect patients.*

*For doctors, the most powerful symbol of their profession? Stethoscope? No, the blood stained white coat.*

*Semmelweiss got everyone in his ward to, put on a clean white coat, and wash their hands with a chlorine solution before rounds. The deaths stopped within a few weeks and did not return.*

*Other doctors refused to give up their tradition. The script = bloody coats. Semmelweiss' contract was not renewed. He lived out his life in relative obscurity in Hungary.*

*In 1857, the year Semmelweiss died, Louis Pasteur discovered bacteria. And soon the bloody coats and the unwashed hands were a thing of the past as the script of professional tradition was finally abandoned by doctors.*

*Do we allow scripts of personal or professional pride rule our lives?*

*Sometimes see it in music groups in church (not here of course). Keyboard player wants to show off (not here), or play something EXACTLY the way it is written (not here). Our professional script gets in the way of great worship.*

### ***Your Lord and Master?***

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*"I am the way, the truth and the life."*

*Even before you were born, God knew about you, and had a plan for you.*

*It is a plan that will build you up, not tear you down.*

*One helpful key is to ask WWJD?*

*Moses led the Children of Israel out of Egypt, but before they got home, he died, and his place was taken by Joshua. During his leadership, Joshua felt that many of the children of Israel had got caught up in following the wrong scripts, the wrong gods.*

*So Joshua got all the community together. And he said to them:*

*"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."*

*I reckon, if Joshua were here tonight he might have put it this way.*

*"Now therefore look up to the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the scripts that your ancestors followed in past generations, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to follow God's script for your life, choose this day whose script you will follow, whether the scripts of past generations, or the scripts of your parents, or the scripts of your professions, or the scripts of your urges and personalities; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."*