Short Sermon for AGM at Riverton 19 August 2018

**Sing hymns and psalms to the Lord with praise in your hearts** (Ephesians 5.19)

On one Armenian Holocaust Day a group of old Christians met to recall the massacres of 1915-17. But the hymn singing was not one of wailing and lament, but of praise and thanks to God. TEXT.

The Psalmist in exile wrote: **how can we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?** (Psalm 137.4) Yet it was Paul & Silas who were able to do so in a Philippi Jail (Acts 16).

TEXT – is only partly to do with worship in a church.
TEXT is not just for happy times, as evidenced by the examples above.
When I was at school there was a student who always grinned; he was nicknamed Smiler, but it was not genuine.
TEXT is not ‘manufactured’ either – ‘put on a happy face’.

It is a basic attitude in life, that comes only through the filling (v18) transformation of Holy Spirit.