



SAM CLEAR COMES TO DONALD & ARARAT

Recently, the Ballarat Diocese Youth & Young Adult Ministry invited Sam Clear to speak at Donald and Ararat Parishes as part of the *Joy Spreading* initiative. Families and young people were treated to a presentation on overcoming adversity that not only involved tales of Sam's journey, walking 15,000+ kilometres across the world promoting unity among Christians, but also invited us to be courageous in the face of adversity.

Difficult times are inevitable at some point in our lives and we should allow those times of adversity to help us grow, spiritually and emotionally. Sam endured many hardships on his long walk and thought about giving up a number of times after serious setbacks, but there was always something that strengthened his resolve to continue with his walk for Christian unity. Some examples of hardship that were used from Sam Clear's journey included being beaten-up in Russia, confronting snakes and other wild animals and being hospitalised a number of times, to name just a few issues. Sometimes he was forced to fight back in self-preservation, other times he chose to back away.

Sam invited us to adapt this concept to our own lives, we can choose which battles are worth fighting and which are not. Bad experiences can be important for our spiritual and emotional growth. Sam also reminded us that Jesus had a choice whether or not to stand up to the soldiers during the difficult walk to his crucifixion, Jesus was very afraid of what was ahead of him but still chose to die for us.

This event attracted a range of people including visitors from other church denominations, all who enjoyed the presentation. *Joy Spreading* is a Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Ministry initiative to bring people of faith together.

Noeline Hogan -Youth & Young Adult Ministry Project Worker

