

path to our door. But what he may be trying to tell us all is to sit lighter to the institution ourselves and to take greater personal responsibility for living and sharing the faith in ways that we probably understand much better than the organisation can ever hope to. In the end it is God who calls and directs the Church and each of us must keep our eye on him.

**Show me a Bible that's falling apart
and I'll show you someone who isn't.**

Carry them in, any way you can

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10

Jesus never called anyone bad. He called them lost. He understood that they'd lost their way, lost their self-confidence, lost control of their lives and, in some cases, lost their reason to live. That's why He told his disciples, "I will make you fishers of men." (Mt 4:19) Note, He said we are to fish for them, not hunt them down or shoot them!

Now, a fisherman who can't catch fish won't stay in business for long. There's a little restaurant called Mr John Bs which has a rusty roof and rickety walls, but people come from everywhere and line up to get in because the food and the service are wonderful. When the church stops blaming its customers and starts changing its menu and its service, we'll have no trouble filling the pews.

One day, four men carried their sick friend to Jesus because he couldn't get there by himself. (Mk 2:3) They had to hold him steady, hold him tight and hold him until Jesus touched him. There it is: most people can't get to Jesus on their own, so you'll have to carry them in prayer, carry them in compassion, carry them in agreement, carry them in your car, just get them to him. Once you do, He'll do the rest. Who do you need to bring to Jesus today?

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Children's attempts to describe married relationships:

Christians can have only one wife. This is called monotony.

The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.

Holy acrimony is another name for marriage.

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day...but a ball of fire by night.