

Is violence fun?

I just looked back at a news article from 1965 which asks, “What will happen to a generation of children raised on the idea that violence is a form of entertainment?”

This question was raised after Adelaide introduced TV in 1959. The writer pointed to “the increasing number of youthful crimes committed for no obvious reason – just for “kicks”.

Today we still have disturbed young people in the news because of senseless, violent, out of control behaviour.

But every Sunday in the local church I attend, guess who leads our Christian worship week by week. It is young people – song leaders, musicians, spokespersons who inspire us by their strong Christian testimony.

What inspires them? One thing is their daily diet during the week when they feed their minds on the wonderful truths of Christianity – God's great forgiveness, his patience even when we mess things up, his love for each one of us, his ongoing support and encouragement as we seek to live an effective Christian life in our part of the world.

And my local church is no exception. Across Australia God is making a difference in young people's lives, no matter what their circumstances.

That's today's good news.

* * *

Young people are God's special concern. I know, because I was young once.

Ken Packer