



# Suicide is Painless?

**T**hat was the theme song to the hit movie and TV series called M.A.S.H.

Today, a small country town is shattered by the apparent murder-suicide of a beautiful family of five. The Hunt family from Lockhart in Western NSW is no more. Work places and coffee shops around the country will ring with theories, reasons and dismay. The same questions will be raised; “How can someone do this?”

In 2007, I started a study for my own journey, having come close to ending my own life in 2006. In my research I came across some interesting facts from a university survey conducted in Australia in 2005. In Australia, 7 times more women than men talk about ending their own lives, but 4 times more men than women actually do it. Draw your own conclusions, but for my money, it seems that women are more likely to seek support and talk about their issues than men are. We bottle it up in the fear of others finding out that we don't have all the answers. That we will be seen as failures if we talk about what we can't manage.

Rumours will abound about Geoff Hunt's reasons for this gravest of all actions. Some will damn and criticise him. Others will make really helpful statements like, “He made his bed, if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen”. Etc. Others, while sitting in a pub consuming their welfare handouts, will say that farmers have had it too good for too long. “He must have been a lousy manager.”

We can only speculate but it is highly likely that one of the big four banks will have a hand in it. You know the ones. The full-page glossy ads that tell us how they can make our dreams come true. How they always say yes! Well more than likely, in Geoff's study, there will be a letter where they said no. Maybe. Maybe there was just one more straw that he couldn't carry.

I am not a farmer of any sort really. I would like to be. I remember a time when we as a nation lived on the sheep's back. When agriculture was our life's blood. Now we live under the control of governments—state and federal—who don't care about what grows in the soil. The soils are in the way of the minerals underneath it. Anyone who tries to protect the surface is pushed aside. It seems that if there were a giant bulldozer that could skim the top off Australia so we can turn the wide brown land into a deep black pit then we will all be better off. But when was the last time you tried to eat iron ore and coal?

Why are we doing this?

So that we can give everything God gave us to look after to multi nationals and super power nations. So Clive Palmer and Gina whatever-her-name-is, can tell us how we don't work hard enough. So that we can do what the government tells us is good for the country; create employment. I have seen first hand the employment we create when I fly people to mine sites all over the country. We are not creating jobs, we are creating vacuums in families. We are sucking the fathers out of the homes so they can keep bigger mortgages and support bigger profits for mining companies and banks.

Never mind though. The Hunt family will soon be forgotten.

The news will be filled with stories about a bunch of disgruntled, so-called-Australians who love this country so much they want to fight in Syria. My Dad fought and saw mates die in Syria in WW2 so that these radicals could destroy the freedoms they died for in the name of religious fanaticism? Not likely. We will go to a heightened security alert to protect ourselves from overgrown kids who want to act out their war game fantasies in the flesh. Cutting off a man's head in cyber space is just not the same for some.

Oh well.

It's just another day in the lucky country hey. What this is all leading to is this: The world is heading for hell in a hand basket. Evil is today's favourite dish. Counterfeits in all things are taking us out of the loop in the great battle of good versus evil.

A line in a movie stays with me always as a Christian man.

“In the name of religion I have seen the lunacy of men of every denomination be called the will of God; what God requires is what is in our hearts and minds and whether we decide to be good or not!”

If you see the world as nowhere for you and your family, *please seek another opinion*. If your life is cruising and you see that your mates are cruising too, *don't assume*. The least likely to do what Geoff did are more often the ones who do. Men, we have to check up on each other. “How you doin'?”, needs to take on a new meaning. “Fine”, is a weather forecast, not an answer.

Let go and let God. In the meantime, welcome to another day in “the lucky country”. My name is Graham Hood and I am a grateful survivor and a man who lives in the hope of a resurrected Jesus.

God bless us all.

*Graham Hood.*