

May 2009

# life at CENTRAL

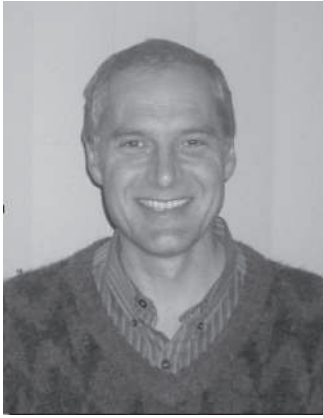
Central Baptist Church, Pretoria

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***...whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."***

***[John 4:14]***





# PASTOR'S CORNER

*Senior Pastor: Charles de Kiewit*



## *Dear friends*

TUG – have you seen this around in Pretoria? TUG is an effort by Christians in South Africa to get involved in sharing the gospel with visitors to South Africa during the world cup in 2010. TUG stands for “The Ultimate Goal”.

Many soccer supporters would like to see their team score goals and win the world cup. But in the bigger scheme of things, as Jesus said in Mark 8v36 “What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul”. Applying this to the world cup we could ask, “What good is it for a man or woman to have her team win the world cup, yet die and go to hell”.

This has led me to think about our efforts in evangelism as a church. Not just during the world cup or confederation cup but generally – week in and week out. How are we doing?

I received a mail from a missionary in our church recently mentioning a church in Lebanon where the whole church is regularly summoned to participate in evangelistic effort in the community. Adding however, that in the west most churches are summoned to share in meals, socials and fellowship events but never or seldom to share the gospel with the lost world.

Is this a fair comment? How are we doing in the area of evangelism? Are we waiting for the lost to come to church or are we making any kind of effort in sharing the gospel in the world?

On Friday we shared in a memorial service of one of our members who lived his life as “aroma of Christ” in a life of evangelism. I personally was challenged by Ken’s example of just sharing the gospel wherever he went. God had miraculously saved Ken in his early twenties. In response to this Ken was passionate about sharing Christ with a dying world.

In this issue we have included something written by Ken before he went to be with the Lord. I believe this may well be God's provision as we continue to do His work with an emphasis on **“...Together building the body of Christ”**.

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel.

*Charles*

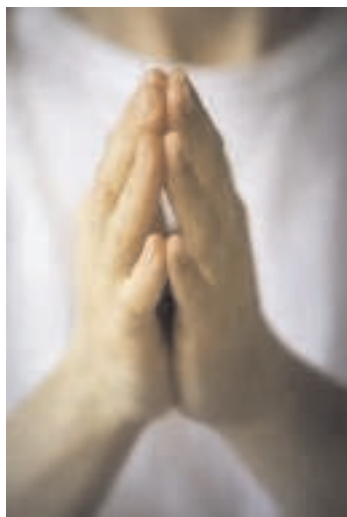
# CARING MINISTRY

by Pastor Eric Robbins



## “PRAYER”

*“Building the Body of Christ” is our theme at Central this year. How well do you think we are actually achieving this? One really effective way of measuring spiritual growth is to appraise one’s prayer life. Martyn Lloyd-Jones puts it this way “there is no better index of one’s spiritual state and condition than one’s prayers”*



*So because we all care about the quality of our life at Central, I believe we need to honestly appraise the state of our prayer life both private and corporate. It has recently been admitted by our leadership that our corporate praying is weak at Central. Would you agree with that? But how strong is your private prayer life? How well do you score on a scale of 0 to 10 (with 0 being no prayer at all and 10 being praying without ceasing)? Why don’t you get down on your knees some time and ask the Lord to show you how He sees your prayer life and how you can grow in this area.*

*I have found (and still find today) that maintaining faithfulness and consistency in prayer is the most difficult of all the Christian disciplines – something that requires persistent effort. Here are some habits I have found helpful in building my prayer life.*

- Make a set time for prayer and Bible reading – morning, evening or lunch time
- As often as you can, pray out loud and use the scriptures as a model for prayer
- Pray with immediacy – pray over the things that happen each moment/hour/day
- Commit to attend one of the church prayer meetings (10am and 5.30pm Sundays)
- Have prayer times at your Bible Study group (if you don’t have one, join one)
- Find a prayer partner to help keep you accountable – there are many others out there who are also keen to grow their prayer life

*But whatever you do, keep growing and building the Body of Christ.*

**Eric Robbins**

### LIFE at CENTRAL MAGAZINE

Download the magazine in pdf format (colour) from the Central website: <http://central.org.za>

Past editions (2006 to 2008) are also available.

Thank you to all those who contributed to this edition! Any articles or contributions for the next edition can be emailed to [life@central.org.za](mailto:life@central.org.za).

Editors: Kim Gush and Daniel Salzwedel



*by Noel Durrheim*

**T**he Saturn V rocket engine burst into life, spewing out tongues of flame and emitting an earsplitting roar as it projected a payload of 45,000 kg – the Apollo II spacecraft, with three astronauts on board, on a historic mission to the Moon on 16 July 1969. In May 1961 President John F. Kennedy (JFK) committed the USA to land a manned spacecraft on the Moon – “before this decade is out”. (JFK unfortunately did not live to see his vision realized – he was assassinated by a sniper during a presidential motorcade in Dallas, Texas, on 22 November 1963.)

I was part of a large crowd that had gathered at the Pretoria University to watch a live telecast of man’s first landing on the Moon on 20 July 1969.

There was an electric atmosphere in the audience as the voice of Michael



Collins, spoke from the Command Module (CM), as it orbited the Moon 400,000 km away from

Earth, announcing – “The Eagle has landed” (the Lunar Module (LM) with two astronauts on board had touched down on the dusty surface of the Moon!). We then saw the astronauts descending the ladder of the LM and Neil Armstrong, the mission commander, stepping down on the Moon’s surface, making that historic announcement, ***“That’s one small step for a man, one great leap for mankind!”*** This opened a new era in mankind’s exploration of the universe.

The Command Module, in which the three astronauts returned from this historic mission, is on display at the National Air and Space Museum, which is part of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. During a visit to the museum I was amazed to see how compact this capsule is and also how scorched the exterior was, due to the fiery reentry through the earth’s atmosphere.

There was also an exhibit of a replica of the rudimentary propeller-driven bi-plane, the Flyer I, built by Orville and Wilbur Wright in which they were the first men to achieve sustained, controlled and powered flight on 17 December 1903. It is truly amazing to see the tremendous strides that have been made in the aerospace industry during the past century!

Approximately two thousand years ago the most profound ***“Lift Off”*** in the world’s history took place on the outskirts of a small Palestinian village situated close to Jerusalem. Let us consider some of the events that preceded this event and what followed it! The Lord Jesus Christ met with His disciples on numerous occasions during the forty days following His death and resurrection, devoting considerable time to teach them about the events to follow. He also gave them very specific instructions to wait in Jerusalem for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and went on to say **“WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU, YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER TO PREACH WITH GREAT EFFECT TO THE PEOPLE IN JERUSALEM, THROUGHOUT JUDEA TO SAMARIA AND TO THE REST OF THE EARTH, ABOUT MY DEATH AND RESURRECTION”** (Acts 1:8 LNT).





Then, in full view of His disciples, He rose into the sky and disappeared from view as He ascended way beyond our Solar system, our galaxy and the stellar Heavens to take His place at the right hand of God the Father in heaven. (The Creator of the Universe, the Lord Jesus Christ is not subject to nor bound

by the laws of nature!) The disciples standing aghast staring up at the empty sky, were brought down to earth with a bump by the sight of two white-robed men standing in their midst. The angelic beings announced, “WHY DO YOU STAND GAZING INTO HEAVEN? THIS SAME JESUS, WHO WAS CAUGHT AWAY AND LIFTED UP FROM AMONG YOU INTO HEAVEN, WILL RETURN IN THE SAME WAY IN WHICH YOU SAW HIM GO INTO HEAVEN!” (Acts 1:11 Ampl).

Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit elaborates further on what will take place on the Return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“FOR THE LORD HIMSELF WILL COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN WITH A MIGHTY SHOUT AND WITH THE SOUL STIRRING CRY OF THE ARCHANGEL AND THE GREAT TRUMPET CALL OF GOD AND THE CHRISTIANS WHO ARE DEAD WILL BE FIRST TO RISE TO MEET THE LORD. THEN WE WHO ARE STILL ALIVE AND REMAIN ON THE EARTH WILL BE CAUGHT UP WITH THEM IN THE CLOUDS TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR AND REMAIN WITH HIM FOREVER” (I Thess 4:16-17 LNT).

This is certainly the greatest “Lift-off” that will ever be experienced as millions of born again believers are caught up to be with the Lord in heaven! The Lord Jesus Christ highlighted various signs that would lead up to this glorious event (refer to Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21).

One of the most significant precursors in the countdown to the Lord’s Return was the

proclamation of the State of Israel on 14 May 1948 and the subsequent return of millions of Jews from all over the world to the Promised Land.

Eschatologists, having various interpretations regarding the end times should pay attention to the words of Jesus:

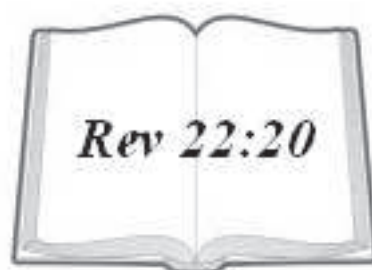
“BUT OF THAT DAY AND HOUR NO ONE KNOWS, NOT EVEN THE ANGELS IN HEAVEN, NOR THE SON, BUT ONLY THE FATHER (Mark 13:32). He continued: “TAKE HEED, WATCH AND PRAY, FOR YOU DO NOT KNOW WHEN THE TIME IS (v 38).

The declaration of the Lord Jesus in the closing verses of the Book of Revelation is very significant.

“SURELY I AM COMING QUICKLY”

May our enthusiastic response be:

“EVEN SO COME LORD JESUS!”



**NOTE:**

Should you have any doubt as to whether you will be part of that great “Lift-off” to meet the Lord, please consider the Philippian gaoler’s question:

“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”

and Paul’s reply:

“BELIEVE IN AND ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST – GIVE YOURSELF UP TO HIM, TAKE YOURSELF OUT OF YOUR OWN KEEPING AND ENTRUST YOURSELF INTO HIS KEEPING AND YOU WILL BE SAVED” (Acts 16:31 Amp).

# OUR MIRACLE BABY

*by Lauren van Zyl*

**I** would like to share with you the miracle of our beautiful baby boy Noah.

Andrew and I got married in September 2004 and decided to wait awhile before starting a family. I fell

pregnant in February 2006, but miscarried at seven weeks. The doctors could not explain why the miscarriage happened. We tried to fall pregnant again almost immediately, but nothing happened. I went for fertility treatment, which also failed.

After a year I had not fallen pregnant again and we made the decision to start the long road to adoption. We had discussed adoption much earlier in our marriage and had decided that we wanted to adopt as well as have our own children. Having completed all the necessary interviews and tests, we were told in December 2007 that we had been placed on a waiting list as adoptive parents. In the same week as we received our letter from the adoption agency, I found out that I was pregnant. We were both very excited but also anxious, as the last pregnancy had ended in such grief.

My pregnancy was very uneventful until 32 weeks. We were in Johannesburg when my waters broke very unexpectedly. Noah was not due for another eight weeks and at the previous check-up he was still under two kilograms in weight. We rushed back to Pretoria and my gynae immediately booked me into hospital. I was examined and, due to the fact that Noah weighed just on two kilograms, a decision was made not to stop contractions if I went into labour. I was given antibiotics to try and prevent an infection as well as steroids to try and strengthen Noah's lungs if he was born.



At five 'o clock the next morning I went into labour and Noah was born at just after seven thirty a.m. My tiny little boy weighed in at just 2,045 kilograms and except for a very small cry at birth, was having difficulty breathing. He was immediately rushed away to ICU. In the first twenty four hours he stopped breathing five times and this was repeated a number of times in the first week of his life. He also had a very bad infection and had to be put onto a strong course of penicillin to fight the infection. Noah spent the first two weeks of his life attached to two separate drips, an oxygen mask, a naso-gastric tube, a heart monitor, and as he developed jaundice spent the large part of his first week under ultra-violet lights. The first time I saw my precious son, he was almost buried under wires and tubes. I first saw his face at five days and got to hold my baby for the first time when he was nearly a week old.



God chose to allow Noah to live and we have been blessed with a big, healthy baby. He is still behind as far as his milestones for his age go, but has more than quadrupled his birth weight in eight short months. He is a friendly, happy baby who has brought great joy to our family. Since his stay in hospital he has not yet been sick one day, despite both his mom and dad having flu and a bout of mumps. He is a blessing not only to our family but to many people he comes into contact with, as he smiles easily and loves interacting with people. We wish to give God all the honour and glory for the blessing of Noah to our family, and once again to thank all the church family that held Noah and us up in their prayers in the first few hours and weeks of his life. Noah is proof that we serve a God of miracles.

# PERSONAL EVANGELISM

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*Note: This article was written by, and is in memory of Ken, who recently passed on to glory and is now truly at home with his Lord and Saviour. Members of Central extend their sympathy to the family in this time of mourning the loss of a loved one.*

*by Ken Nicholson*

There are many doing personal evangelism in our church who have had interesting experiences sharing the Word with others. I would like to suggest that they write their stories to encourage us all, telling us what they said – because that is why some of us never get started; we just don't know what to say. I wrote of a witnessing experience I had in a previous edition and would like to share another. Both times I used a message memorized from the book *Witnessing made easy* by Dr. C.S. Lovett.

One morning, after doing some shopping at Hatfield Plaza, I felt I should cross over the road to Hatfield Square – maybe there was some lonely soul with whom I could share a word. This is a familiar EE3 'stomping ground' where Bradley and I got into a conflagration with an atheist one night – but that's another story.

At night the pubs are usually filled with students having a beer, but on that morning there were only a few folk to be seen – and yes, there was a young man sitting all by himself on a bench in the middle of the Square making a call on his cellphone. I waited until he had finished, and when he did not move off, I assumed that this was the opportunity the Lord was giving me. Greeting him I said: "I noticed you sitting here and wondered, while you are waiting, if you would allow me to take just a few minutes to tell you something which could be of real interest and maybe, even encouragement to you?" "Yes, go ahead," he answered.

"I just want to tell you that this world in which we live, did not come about by chance or accident, it was all planned and continues to be maintained by God – He created it. And because He also made you, He loves you with an everlasting love." I then continued speaking of the love of Christ, His death on the Cross, His readiness to forgive his sin and to come into his heart and life, ending with "Would you be willing to give Jesus that chance in your life?"

"Actually, I am a Muslim," he replied in a friendly way, "so I don't quite understand or believe what you have just told me. Have you ever read the Koran?" "I do have a copy, but I don't find it easy to read. Have you read the New Testament?" "No, I haven't," he answered. I could see he was a foreigner, so asked where he came from. "I'm from Libya and am a student at Pretoria University where I am studying electrical engineering." "That's interesting," I said. "My son also studied the same subject at the same university and is now an electrical engineer."

At that, another young man came and stood nearby – maybe it was the one he had phoned to meet him there. "I have to be going now, as my friend has arrived," he said. "Before you go I would like to give you a gift," and with that I took out a Gospel of John. "This is just a part of the New Testament, which, if you have not read it before, I am sure you will find very interesting." Without hesitation he accepted and thanked me for it and left with a friendly farewell.

Ten years ago, I had a young Algerian in my EE3 team named Mustapha. He had been brought up a Muslim but wrote in his testimony: "I could not overcome sin and my life was empty, and I prayed to God to show me the way. In a dream I saw myself going to the coffee shop and speaking to a man whom I knew, who gave me a book. The next day I went to the shop and asked the man: 'Do you have a book that is a map to God?' He gave me a Gospel of Luke." Through reading that Gospel Mustapha was converted and became such an outspoken witness for Christ that he had to flee his country under the threat of death. That is how he ended up in South Africa.

If *Luke* could do that for Mustapha, *John* can surely do the same for that young man to whom I had the privilege of giving his Gospel!





# WOMEN's VALUE

Lana Pelser and Carol de Kiewit



## Letter from Carol

Dear Friends

I have recently been challenged from Jerry Bridges' book called '*Respectable Sins – Confronting the Sins we Tolerate*'. It's been one of those books which have stretched me and convicted me in so many areas in my life.

There is truth in the phrase "*The more I learn about God and His word, the more I realise what a sinner I am and the desperate need I have of God's daily grace*"

We have just come through the time in our Christian calendar of remembering the cruel and unfair death of Christ on the cross. Unfair, because Jesus was not bad in any way whatsoever, there was not a corrupt bone in His body. He was totally pure in all ways, from His very motives, thoughts, words to His actions.

Why is it that 'the world' would want to do away with someone so good?

I believe that partly, it has something to do with the Holiness of God. Somehow when confronted with Holiness, one is convicted of the filth in one's own life.

Each one of us is called to a life of holiness and godliness.

As Jerry Bridges says in his book, every single one of us is guilty to some degree of the sin of ungodliness, even though we might not think of ourselves as ungodly. After all, we are not atheists or really bad people.

Did you know that even nice, respectable people can be ungodly? You see, ungodliness describes an attitude toward God.

*"Ungodliness may be defined as living one's everyday life with little or no thought of God, or of God's will, or of God's glory, or of one's dependence on God."*

That then tells me that even a Christian can be ungodly. We don't have to be wicked to be ungodly.

I have been challenged on this very sad fact that, "*we tend to live our daily lives with little or no thought of God. We don't often think of our need of Him or our responsibility to Him.*"

*Our plans don't acknowledge our dependence on God, we seldom think about the will of God, and so often we are content to avoid obvious sins we are confronted with daily."*

Do we realise what put Jesus on the cross – SIN? That includes **ALL** sin not just the ones we tend to see as bad or major.

He died just as much for the 'respectable sins' which I seem to accept and put up with, either in my life or the lives of my friends and family.

These 'respectable sins' would include anxiety, frustration, discontentment, pride, selfishness, lack of self-control, impatience, irritability, anger, judging others, envy, jealousy, sins of the tongue, worldliness.

Oh my friends, how we should have as our goal to live our whole lives, every day of our lives, to the glory of God.

What does that mean?

*· I must desire that all that I do be pleasing to God. I want God to be pleased with the*



*way I go about the ordinary activities of my day. I need to be asking that the Holy Spirit direct my thoughts, words and actions that they will be pleasing to Him.*

*· I must desire that in all my activities of an ordinary day I will honour God before other people.*

*Jesus said, "in the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven"*

**Matt 5:16**

My friend, I ask you as I ask myself, do we consciously and prayerfully seek God's glory in all that we say and do in our most ordinary activities of the day? Or do we actually go

about those activities with little or no thought of God?

My prayer is that all of us will have such a desire to develop a real intimate relationship with God just as David wrote in the Psalms:

*"As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?" Psalm 42:1-2*

Be thirsty, feel the dryness of your soul thirst for a Godly life. Plead with the living God to quench your thirst.

From your thirsty friend Carol

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## **HOW SUFFERING AFFECTS US**

### **Suffering helps us when:**

*We turn to God for help and strength*

*We ask important questions we might not take time to think about normally*

*We let it get us ready to help others who suffer*

*We are open to be helped by others who are obeying God*

*It helps us think about what Christ suffered on the Cross for us*

*It helps us think about the amount of suffering in the world*

### **Suffering hurts us when:**

*We become hardened and reject God*

*We refuse to ask any questions and miss some lessons that might be good for us*

*We let it make us self-centred and selfish*

*We don't let others help us*

*We think that God is being unjust and perhaps lead others to reject Him*

*We refuse to think about making any changes in our life*



# WHY DID JESUS FOLD THE NAPKIN?

**W**hy did Jesus fold the linen burial cloth after His resurrection? I never noticed this....

The Gospel of John (20:7) tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes.

The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed separate from the grave clothes.

Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.

She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, 'They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him!'

Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see. The other disciple outran Peter and got there first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in.

Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side.

Was that important? Absolutely!

Is it really significant? Yes!

In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition.

When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it.

The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table, until the master was finished.

Now if the master were done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table.

The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, 'I'm done'.

But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, because.....

The folded napkin meant, 'I'm coming back!'

***He is Coming Back!***



## ***What to sow for May/June (From Starke Ayres sowing guide)***

### **Flowers:**

African daisy  
Cornflowers  
Larkspur  
Lupins  
Pansy  
Primula  
Poppy  
Sweet peas  
Verbena  
Virginian Stock



### **Vegetables:**

Broad beans  
Cabbage  
Carrots  
Lettuce  
Peas  
Radish  
Turnips



# EASTER BAKING WITH THE KIDS

Easter has passed, but here is something to try at home next year, or at another time.

(Bake the evening before Easter Sunday)

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup whole pecan nuts
- 1 teaspoon vinegar
- 3 egg whites
- Pinch of salt

## Other Utensils

- Mixing bowl
- Egg beater
- Plastic bag
- Wooden spoon
- Masking tape
- Bible



## METHOD

Heat oven to 180 C° (very low heat – we are making meringues)

Place nuts in a plastic packet and let children break them up with a wooden spoon. Explain how Jesus Christ was beaten by the Roman soldiers after he was captured (Read John 19: 1-3)

Let the children smell the vinegar, then pour 1 teaspoon into mixing bowl. Explain how Jesus was given sour wine to drink when he asked for something to drink on the cross. Sour wine tastes almost like vinegar (Read John 19:28 -30)

Add the egg whites to the vinegar. Eggs symbolise life. Explain how Jesus gave his life to save us (Read John 10:10 -11)

Pour a little bit of salt in each child's hand. Let them taste it and then pour a pinch of salt into the mixture. Explain that salt tastes like the tears the Christian believers cried when Jesus was crucified.

The salt also depicts how bad our sins are in front of God (Read Luke 23:27)

Lastly add the cup of sugar to the mixture. Explain that the sweetest part of the crucifixion is the fact that Jesus gave his life to save us because he loves us so much, He wants all of us to know Him and to know that we all belong to Him (Read Psalm 34:8 & John 3 : 16)

Beat the egg whites with a mixer till the foam becomes stiff. Explain the white colour symbolises the pure lives of all the children of Christ and that our sins have been taken away by Him. (Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1 – 3)

Add the chopped nuts and mix well. Use a teaspoon to spoon small amounts of the mixture onto a baking tray. The biscuits are now going to go into the oven – similar to the grave that Jesus was buried in (Read Matthew 27:57 – 60)

Place baking tray into the oven. Switch oven off. Give each child a piece of cello tape / masking tape to stick over the door of the oven. Explain that Jesus' grave (tomb) was also sealed (Read Matthew 27:65-66)

All kids must now go to bed

The children might be sad that they cannot remove the biscuits before going to sleep. Explain how all Jesus' followers were also sad after they buried Him and sealed up his grave (tomb). (Read John 16:20 – 22)

Easter Sunday morning – you need to unseal the oven and remove the biscuits before the children wake up. (Leave the oven door wide open) The children will be sad that their baking is missing.

Explain that was how Jesus' followers found his tomb on Easter Sunday – unsealed and empty! (Read John 20: 1-2)

Then give every child a biscuit. Note the biscuits have a cracked appearance - just like the grave tomb, was found empty and if you bite into the middle it is empty (hollow) (Read Matthew 28:1 – 9)

The children have been fed with the biscuits – The Holy Spirit /Comforter/Spirit of Truth, which is Jesus' Spirit , is now inside us and our hearts/bodies are fed so we must only do good things the same as Jesus did. (Read John 14:16 - 17)



# CHURCH GETAWAY

*A flurry of activities punctuate the final week. "Peter, do we have enough bookings? Rick, do you have your devotions sorted? Dawn, do you have your best smile reserved for Friday? Charlie G., are you and Reinhardt ready for the Saturday games? Tim, you O.K to lead as co-ordinator? And then we all look over to camp Ma for the final adornments for flags and bandannas.*

*Yes, all is sorted. We are ready to present Central Baptist Getaway 2009! Our theme was GOD'S GLADIATORS. Our speaker was Neil Gooch from Campus Outreach and he spoke on the theme "Life is War." I believe all who attended were challenged in some way by his trio of messages on this theme.*

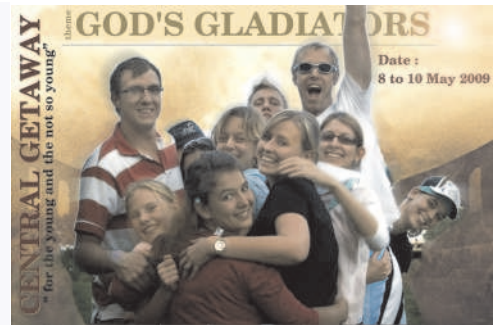
*As usual we looked forward to the adventure activities on Saturday after lunch. Charlie Gibbs and Reinhardt did a wonderful job in providing some extraordinary challenges. Sakkie exhibited his talent for wearing his whole wardrobe at once in the sumo wrestling contest. The kattie challenge proved too much for Zee and he broke down in tears calling for his mother. Caleb Zak. showed his amazing dexterity over the gumpole accross the pool. I believe his record will stand for many a year.*

*After the adventure activities and over supper the word spread that our celebrities from last year had managed to interrupt their sell-out tour of the Richtersveld to make a whirlwind cameo appearance at the evening activities. It was with much applause and aplomb that Central's Celestial Cherubs made their appearance and to the the delight of uncle Roy and auntie Bettie they crooned "this little light of mine" to an appreciative audience. We have been told however that if we want them to perform next year we have to book now as FIFA officials have apparently been in contact with them with some lucrative offers. We listened to some old favourites (with a twist) presented by Central's "Joyful Noise" ensemble after the thunderous applause for the Cherubs had subsided.*

*Sunday morning greeted us with some controversial challenges by Neil. Free time before lunch brought the competitor in Pastor Charles out as he challenged the "youngsters" to a volleyball contest. I am unsure of where the "oldies" found their inspiration, but they veritabily thrashed the young upstarts. And the challenge will carry over to next year. So those of you under 35 know what to do between now and 2010!*

*As room keys were handed in, I noticed tired eyes but also saw a certain glow of those who had enjoyed time with fellow christians and had met with God.*

*Till next year fellow Getawayers!  
- Eugene Van H.*







*this weigh-less diet is amazing*



*a narrow escape*

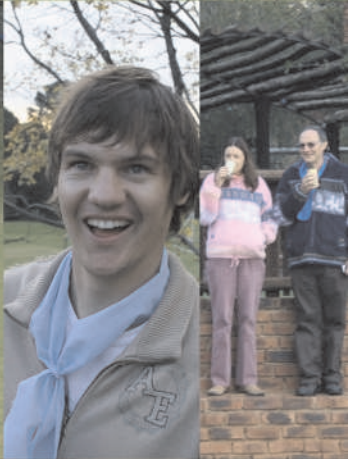


*the punchy peaches*



*sensibly watching **others** fall in the pool*





*all this cycling is getting tiring...*







*"Stand in the GAP?" God Answers Prayers :-)*

*Mr Jubber trying out the new "head and shoulders"*

# ***“I FOUND SALVATION THROUGH GRACE!”***

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## ***Testimony from Central Asia***

**I** was born into a Muslim family. When I was 3 years old I observed my mother saying the Muslim prayers five times a day. From the age of 9 years old I started to say the Muslim prayers every day and to fast during the month of Ramadan. I was very scared of God and wanted to be accepted by Him. In spite of praying and fasting I did not have peace. We had many problems as a family and often struggled to have enough food and I thought that all this suffering was from God. This is how my childhood passed.

When I became a teenager I went with my father to the mountains to look after the cattle, sheep and goats. I had to do all the family work including shepherding the flocks, cleaning, cooking and washing. I felt very unlucky and was miserable. Civil unrest started and my one brother went to study and the other one joined the army. My father became sick and I started working in the fields where there were mainly men working. I did not like this work at all and didn't want to go there but I went anyway. One of the men there gave me a lot of trouble.

One morning my mother woke me up and told me to go work. I got up and thought, “Today I am going to kill myself.” I thought “God, why don't you like me?” As I was walking along the road I was wondering if I should kill myself by drowning in the river or by going in front of a car. I tried to jump into the river three times but something like an invisible hand stopped me all three times. I was very surprised and scared and I did not try again.

I walked along the road again and I thought, “Why can't I kill myself?” I found some sticks for firewood and collected them and took them home. When I got home I thought my mother would be very angry because I was home so quickly and had not gone to work. When she saw me she was happy to see me and said that she had good news for me. “Your friend from Africa, Zarina has

come home!” she said. I was very happy and forgot about everything else! My mother cooked a special bread, Fatih and in the evening we went to visit their family. There were many friends and family there. I was very shy of everyone. Zarina came to me and said “I love you and don't be shy!”. I was surprised at her words. I think it was the first time I heard someone say “I love you!” Afterwards the other guests left and me and my friend had a walk outside, it was a beautiful evening! She spoke a lot! She looked at the sky and said, “How beautiful it is! God created it all!” I was very surprised! She was so happy, it was as if she was walking on the clouds. She said, “Do you know that I have been cleaned from my sin?” She continued “Jesus died for my sins!” I thought “Who is Jesus?” I knew that Jesus is a prophet. I was wondering if it was someone from Africa called Jesus who had died for her sins. I felt like a burden was taken away from me and felt lighter. I thought a lot about my sin. I thought how happy my friend was and how her sins had been taken away! Before she had gone away she was my close friend and had been a strict Muslim.

That night I couldn't sleep and I kept on hearing the words of my friend, “Jesus died for my sins”. I thought about my many sins and kept on thinking “Who is Jesus???” For one week I had this question. One day I went to the Mullah but he was not there so I spoke to his daughter and asked “Who is Jesus?” She said Jesus is the Russian prophet and that her father would be angry if he found out about me asking about Jesus. I thought, “Why does no one want to speak about Jesus?” and I had little hope.

One day I worked a lot on the fields and when I came home I was very tired. I wanted to listen to music. We had a radio and I was searching for a good station. I found one station that had really beautiful and peaceful music. I listened to it and heard one woman saying “Jesus Christ died for the sins of the whole world!” When I listened to this I was extremely happy and I excitedly shouted “Jesus died for my sins too, and I am so happy!” My parents came running inside and asked “What happened! Have you got a problem with electricity?” I said, “No! Jesus died for my sins!” They thought that their daughter had become mad! I was SO happy! At last I understood what Jesus did!

In the morning I went to the house of Zarina. When she opened the door she was happy to see me! She made tea for me and I sat down and listened to her singing some beautiful English worship music. When she came back to the room I had my eyes closed and was surprised and

I said "You sing so beautifully! What are you singing?" She laughed and said sit down! I said, "Please tell me! Jesus also died for my sins?" She said "Hallelujah! Yes! Jesus died for your sins as well! I have been praying for you and so have lots of people in Africa." At that time she spoke a lot about Jesus and I understood that God loves me and had protected me! I accepted Jesus into my heart! She gave me a little booklet with verses from the Bible. I said to her "I want a Bible! Where can I get one? I need to go to church! Where can I go?" "I don't know where to get one but you can read my Bible until I go home," she said. After three days she went back to Africa.

I memorised all the verses in the booklet she gave me but I didn't have a Bible or people to have fellowship with for three years. I wanted to have a very close relationship with Jesus! Everyone in my family was surprised and wondered what had happened to me. My character had really changed. When my sister came to my home she was very surprised at the change! I told them everything I knew about Jesus. My mother said to me "I don't understand what you are saying." I said "I'll pray for you!". In time you will understand! My sister said, "Yes, please pray for me! I want to understand!" Many nights I prayed and didn't sleep till 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning. I wasn't tired in the day and had energy!

One day my sister came to our house and said, "Speak to me again about Jesus!" I told her everything that I knew. She said, "Please give that booklet to me! I want to read it at home." I felt that God was working in her heart and told her "God loves you! Take the booklet". She cried, "Does God love me?" "Yes," I said, "God died for your sins on the cross!" She went home and I thought it has been three years and I need to find a Bible and other people who know Jesus! I thought, "Just entering a church once will be enough!"

I went to the city on one Saturday to visit a friend in hospital and saw one foreign girl on the road. When I saw her I ran after her and I said Hello! She said Hello in my language. I said "Sorry, where do you live?" She gave me her address and left quickly. I thought, I'll find this address and I went there. I knocked at the door and one girl opened the door. I asked her, "Sorry, have you got a Bible? I would like to buy one from you!" She was very surprised. I nearly cried and said "Please! Give me a Bible!" She said, "Come in quickly!" She introduced herself and her friend and we sat down. I only spoke about getting a Bible! They were shocked! They gave me a Bible. They knew a little bit of my language and I spoke to them. The girl I met in the street came back. She was surprised and said "What a good day it is for me!"

We prayed and worshiped together. They invited me to a home group. I was very happy to get the Bible and thanked them and then went home.

As a single girl I was not usually allowed to go into the city and I didn't see my new friends for a long time. Zarina came back home again and I asked her "Please, take me to church!" One Sunday we went to church together. It was very different to what I had expected and I thought, "I won't go to church again!" My friend told me that I could meet with one of her friends from Africa who lived nearby. "Please, introduce me to her! Maybe we could meet regularly together!" My friend had a New Testament and gave it to me so now I had a whole Bible and a New Testament! My new friend really shone with Jesus' light and I thought "God has sent her here!" We met together about every two weeks and spoke a lot about the Bible.

One day I again had the desire to go to Church. I went to one of the friends I had met in the city and she had learnt my language and said "Come to our group!" I started going to that group which met in the evening. At about that time I was baptised in a stream together with my sister who had come to faith! My mother was also there when we got baptised. There were many birds gathering together above the place where we got baptised. My mother said, "What a beautiful day this is and how happy the people are!" After the baptism we celebrated together by eating together. My mother was happy that her daughters had found happiness! About three years later she also came to faith!

In my village everyone came to know that I had become a follower of Jesus. A new different life started for me at this time. There were and are many difficulties and persecutions that come our way. People in the village give my family and I a lot of trouble. In spite of all this God gives me strength and joy! I have fallen down many times but Jesus has picked me up. This is my life with Jesus!

*Please pray for Muhabbat:*

- For her health – she has many different health problems
- For her niece who has a heart problem – that she may be able to have an operation and be healed
- For provision for her and her family who are really poor and suffering even more because of the world financial crisis
- For growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ



# PETER VUMISA:

## WHAT KIND OF WORK IS HE ACTUALLY DOING?

*by Gisela Nicholson*



*We* were all blessed when, a few Sundays ago, Peter and Christine Vumisa and their three daughters Thando (16), Thokozile (13) and Nomsa (10) were handed some money that had been collected by the Sunday School. But some of those who witnessed this may be asking themselves: What kind of missionary work is Peter actually doing?

### ***Where He Comes from***

Peter is one of the seven missionaries of Central Baptist. He works for the *Institute for Strategic Services (INSERV)* as Research Director. After graduating from Bible College in Zambia in 1990 Peter pastured a church in Zambia for six years. In 1998 he came with Christine whom he had married in 1992, to South Africa to do a missions research course at *Inserv* in Pretoria and then joined *Inserv* as full-time Research Coordinator. Nomsa was born in South Africa.

Peter's job is to do in-depth research on less reached people groups in Southern Africa in order to help churches to develop effective strategies to reach out to these people. He also trains key church leaders and members of mission organizations to do their own research for effective church planting strategies.

### ***Research Projects***

In March 2006 the *Movement for African National Initiatives (MANI)* held a continental conference in Nairobi that brought together 520 church leaders from 65 countries who committed themselves to reach every unreached people group in Africa. *Inserv* was asked to help develop a regional and continental *MANI* database and to facilitate research for 10 Southern African countries. Peter is coordinating this project. A follow-up *MANI* conference has since taken place in Johannesburg in February 2008.

Other research projects by *Inserv* done over the years include the Makwe and Yao people of Mozambique. As a result these people groups are currently being reached with the gospel. In S.A., *Inserv* participated in a project called *Missions in the new South Africa*, a four-year project under the *South African Research Network*, coordinated by the University of Pretoria. The report is called "No Quick Fixes".

### ***The Importance of Research***

Churches in Africa are now realizing the importance of research information in their efforts to evangelize the least evangelized

people groups. Therefore, what *Inserv* is doing is being recognized by church leaders internationally.

In March 2008 Peter was asked to speak at the 13th African Mission Summit in Jos, Nigeria. Nigeria is the foremost country in Africa when it comes to sending their own missionaries to reach unreached peoples (according to Operation World, 3700 in 110 agencies to more than 50 places locally and abroad). Peter has since traveled to Nigeria again, in November 2008 for a *Missions Support Conference (MSL)* in Jos, and in March 2009 *MSL* invited him again to conduct a one-week research training seminar for 15 people from 11 mission agencies. The enthusiastic participants not only went back to their organizations promising to improve their research, but they also decided to form a Nigerian National Research Network

In April 2005 and 2008, Peter and colleagues from *Inserv* were invited to present research papers at the 3rd and 4th Lausanne International Researchers Conference in Cyprus and Geelong, Australia, at which Christian researchers from around the world met to foster networking among themselves.

Every two years, Peter and Christine undertake a short-term outreach to Gwembe Valley to encourage the church he had pastured in Zambia. They organize bi-annual conferences for the training and growth of its members. In July 2008, they organized the 4th such conference which was attended by some 300 people. Every year Peter also travels to Zambia to present a one-week research training course at Pro-Christo Missions College in Kabwe. Pro-Christo has now merged with OM.

The other international conference Peter was involved in last year, was in Bali, Indonesia, a Global Mission Mobilization Summit where participants from four continents and the Middle East exchanged information about mission mobilization. Peter also participates in the annual Missionfest Pretoria as workshop facilitator, and in the annual WENSA Mission Leaders Consultation.

## ***Future Plans***

Peter's mission focus has started to shift from research to mission mobilization. His experience gained through research and international travel has shown that there is a great need in the area of mission mobilization in the Church in Africa. Pray for him that the Lord will guide him regarding the direction of his future ministry.

## ***The Family***

Christine had been able to contribute to the family's income by means of a contract to do some sewing work, but this came to an end during 2008. She is now taking driving lessons.

Thando has a problem with keloids growing on her earlobes. She has received some treatment which helped only temporarily. It seems that she will be able to be helped only by a specialist doctor at a private hospital.

Thokozile entered Pretoria Technical High School in January and is happy there. All three girls are doing very well in their respective schools.

## ***Ministry Support***

A very great challenge for the family is finances. *Inserv* is a Faith Based Organization which means that Peter and Christine have to raise their own support. Their main support comes from Central as well as supporters and friends, and a small percentage from *Inserv* itself. The loss of Christine's income, added costs since two girls now attend high school, and the global financial crisis affecting their support have put a considerable strain on the family budget. On top of all that, the Zambian government is demanding that all their citizens get new passports before 1st June 2009 at the cost of R750 per person.

So let us pray for the Vumisas, for Peter to cope with his heavy programme and much traveling, for the family's health, for their involvement in the church (Peter as elder, Christine involved in 'Mums for the Master' and the 'Children's Church'), and for adequate provision of all their needs.

# The Creation of Science

© David E Mnjama & Central Baptist Church,  
Pretoria. December 2008

**God created science.** That is the simple truth, and one that has to be borne in mind when reading the creation account. Allow me to re-tell the story in a modern-day paraphrase...

*Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

*Gen 1:2 And the earth was without form and empty. And darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved on the face of the waters.*

A lot is packed into these two verses. Think about it. The Earth really was without form. I sincerely doubt if it was even round at that stage. There was no Sun to orbit around. No moon to control the tides of the waters that God's Spirit moved over. It is a miracle that the waters were liquid at all, if they were. To my mind, at least, I see God literally taking the Earth from scratch. Why else would God himself ask Job about the foundations of the Earth (Job 38)? Is it not testified in Psalms (90:2, 95:4, 102:25) that God actually made the Earth, its foundations, with underground fountains for water (Prov 8:24-29)?

I see God in my mind, constructing the Earth, Everest and Rift Valley, The Grand Canyon and the sheer drop that would later be the Victoria falls. I see him then allowing water to flow from his throne onto the Earth, and cover it.

*Gen 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.*

*Gen 1:4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.*

*Gen 1:5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*

I see God bathing the constructed Earth with his glory (Let there be light) and then spinning it. The face of the Earth immediately facing him slowly turns to night, we have evening and morning, the first day. Mind you, he is still hanging the Earth on nothing, just as scripture testifies. Can you see where I am going with this? I encourage you to do your own personal study, and see him separating the waters from land, creating an atmosphere. You would need one before any sun came, or the radiation on a bare Earth would turn it into any other planet like Mars or Jupiter. The fact that he commanded the waves to stop and go no further, as opposed to those who worship the moon for its tide activities, would ring more true for you. (Prov 8:29, Job 38:8-11). It actually was awhile before God placed the moon in orbit for signs and times, to light the night and for the tides.

It would make sense that He would create plants before the sun too, to complete the air system. Having hung the baby Earth on nothing during its construction, God now puts the Sun in one place, creates gravity and places the Earth in its place. The moon, stars and the rest of the galaxy to declare his glory. With the plants already in place, photosynthesis can now occur, and evapo-transpiration and everything else that we are still trying to comprehend.

There is no need to disprove evolution. It really is a matter of belief, and realizing that spiritual things are spiritually discerned. Let us bow down in worship before our God, creator of all we see around us.





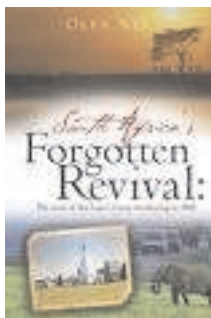
# ***BOOK REVIEWS***

*by Val Nowlan*

***SOUTH AFRICA'S FORGOTTEN  
REVIVAL – The story of the Cape's Great  
Awakening in 1860***  
*by Olea Nel*

**I** found this a thrilling account of how people were blessed with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in those early days. The book is well researched and written with enormous sensitivity. It contains information that fills a much needed gap in literature about the Great Awakening at the Cape in 1860. As the events unfold the reader is exposed to the reactions in the lives of people like Nicolaas Hofmeyr, Gottlieb van der Lingen and Andrew Murray.

I found it very interesting to read that following on the outpouring of the Spirit on different communities in the Cape there was extensive division in the Dutch Reformed Church. This division eventually manifested itself in legal battles in the Cape High Court as well as the Privy Council in London. In this drama Andrew Murray defended the Church against the onslaught of liberalism.



Conversely the follow up of the revival also resulted in the doors opening to mission work among other groups of people which in years to come led to the translation of the Bible into Afrikaans.

***WHY I JUMPED - A dramatic story of  
finding hope beyond depression***  
*by Tina Zahn*

**F**or me this was a page turner. The author does not spare her readers the angst and trauma of a child living in the shadow and reality of abuse. She

describes very vividly the fall out of these and other negative behavioural patterns in her teenage and young adult years. The effects on her of the poor home background eventually led to her attempting suicide from a bridge over a busy highway. But God intervened in the form of a state trooper putting out his hand over the railing of the bridge and in a miracle of timing and determination snagged Tina's wrist as she started the plunge. Other officers ran to his aid and they pulled her to safety. I could not put this book down recording as it does the powerful true story of emotional struggle, dramatic rescue and a return to hope.



***GOING GREEN – 365 WAYS TO  
CHANGE OUR WORLD – MAKING  
THE PLANET A BETTER PLACE  
ONE DAY AT A TIME***

*by Simon Gear*

**T**his book may not be read as a novel, or a biography or any other page by page book. It is filled with 365 ideas of how you and I can improve life on this planet and thus save our resources and reduce earth warming and many other negatives. The book is written by South Africa's favourite weather man. The design and layout of the text is such that it is easy to use as a reference book in different aspects of daily living, such as the family, in the school, in the community and office. It is easy to read because of the short pithy inserts.



# ARMOR OF GOD

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests, <sup>Col 3:1-18</sup>

## Protection from Confusion and Foolishness:

Turn your ear to Wisdom and apply your heart to Understanding. <sup>Prov 2:2</sup> The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice. <sup>Prov 12:15</sup>

## Protection from Slander and Gossip:

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs. <sup>Eph 4:29</sup> Do everything without complaining or arguing. <sup>Ps 141:3</sup> The tongue has the power of life and death. <sup>Prov 18:21</sup>

## Protection from Sin:

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. <sup>Prov 4:23</sup>

## Protection from the Flesh:

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. <sup>Gal 2:20</sup>

## Protection from Anger:

In your anger do not sin; Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry. <sup>Eph 4:26</sup>

## Protection from Anger, Pride, and Impatience:

clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>Col 3:13</sup>

## Protection from Pride:

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. <sup>Prov 16:18</sup>

## Protection from Laziness:

Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. <sup>1 Cor 15:58</sup> We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. <sup>Heb 6:12</sup>

## Protection from Division:

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>Eph 4:3</sup>

## Protection from Fighting & Unforgiveness:

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. <sup>Eph 4:32</sup>

## Fruit of the Spirit:

live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature...sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, orgies...But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. <sup>Gal 5:16-24</sup>

## Protection from Deception:

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. <sup>Col 2:8</sup>

## Protection from Lust and Fornication:

Avoid sexual immorality; each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust. <sup>1 Thes 4:3-5</sup> anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>Mat 5:28</sup>

## Protection from Perversion:

Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word. <sup>Ps 119:37</sup> I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl. <sup>Job 31:1</sup> take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. <sup>2 Cor 10:5</sup>

## Protection from Ungodliness:

say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age. <sup>1 Ths 2:17</sup>

## Protection from Greed:

Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. <sup>Luke 12:15</sup> Do Not Covet. <sup>Ex 20:17</sup>

## Protection from Revenge:

Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who persecute you. <sup>Mat 5:44 (2 Manuscripts)</sup>

## Protection from Self-Righteousness:

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>Phi 2:3</sup> Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment. <sup>Rom 12:3</sup>

## Powerful Weapons: The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double edged sword. <sup>Heb 4:12</sup> Resist the devil, and he will flee. Come near to God and He will come near to you. <sup>Jam 4:7-8</sup>

## Protection from Depression & Discouragement:

In this world you will have trouble, but don't worry. I have overcome the world. <sup>Jam 1:6-8</sup> set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>1 Pet 1:13</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>Rom 12:12</sup> Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength. <sup>Jam 5:10</sup> Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>Heb 10:23</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. <sup>Phi 4:4</sup>

**LOVE** : Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud, not rude, not self-seeking, not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. <sup>1 Cor 13:4-8</sup>



"Use what talent you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best."

- Henry Van Dyke



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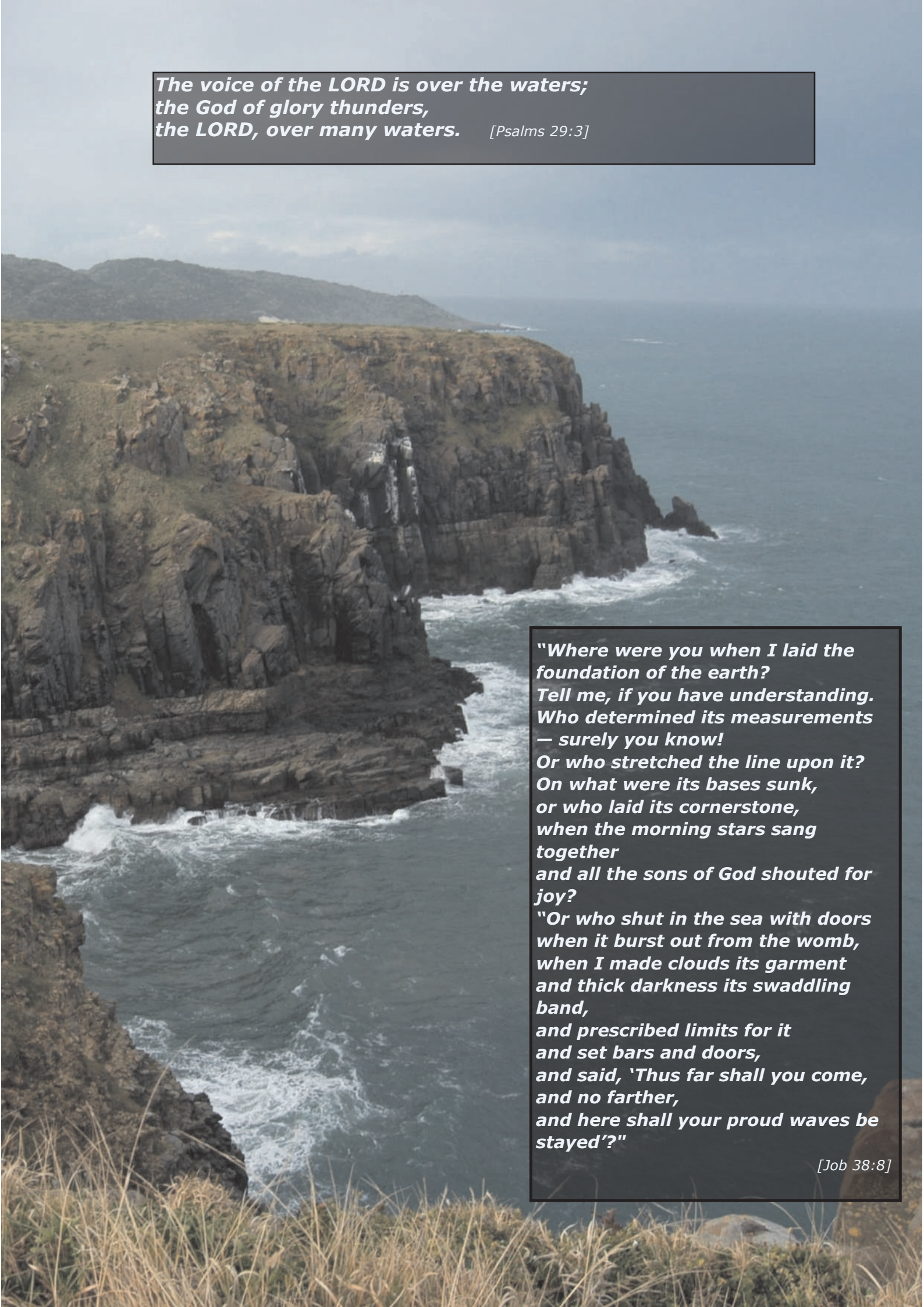
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***The voice of the LORD is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the LORD, over many waters. [Psalms 29:3]***

***"Where were you when I laid the  
foundation of the earth?  
Tell me, if you have understanding.  
Who determined its measurements  
— surely you know!  
Or who stretched the line upon it?  
On what were its bases sunk,  
or who laid its cornerstone,  
when the morning stars sang  
together  
and all the sons of God shouted for  
joy?  
"Or who shut in the sea with doors  
when it burst out from the womb,  
when I made clouds its garment  
and thick darkness its swaddling  
band,  
and prescribed limits for it  
and set bars and doors,  
and said, 'Thus far shall you come,  
and no farther,  
and here shall your proud waves be  
stayed'?"***

*[Job 38:8]*