

Aug 2009

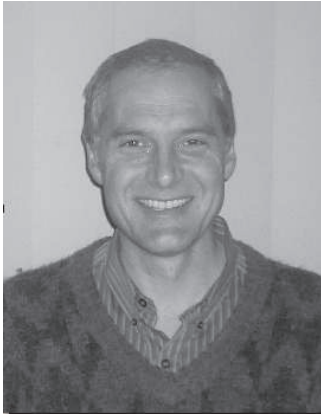
# life at CENTRAL

Central Baptist Church, Pretoria

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*How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good news*

Isaiah 52:7



# PASTOR'S CORNER

Senior Pastor: Charles de Kiewit



20th August 2009

*Dear friends*

From time to time I find that God stirs my heart with a particular challenge. There are many challenges from His word and each and every one should be taken seriously. I have however found my heart on fire with the challenge raised by Paul.

***"I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received."***

*Ephesians 4:1*

In a nut shell the challenge covers three different areas of life and ministry, namely **unity**, **maturity** and **purity**. I have found the second area a particular challenge. The challenge applies to us all personally but extends to us as a local church.

The challenge should be a catalyst bringing about vision for the future. If maturity means growth then we cannot as a church remain comfortable with the status quo. We need to constantly stretch in our efforts (works of service) and thus see positive change.

Growth and thus change are seldom easy or comfortable. As a church we have recently changed and grown by adding a second morning service. It has meant harder work for many and also some discomfort in not seeing our friends attending the same service.

Looking ahead we envisage more growth and change. In our effort to reach our growing city we are considering a "Central Campus" (satellite work) in the far east of Pretoria. Again this will add to the work load and create some discomfort in that some members may choose to throw their weight in that area of ministry.

Isn't this what God wants? In the light of the gospel entrusted to us, and His command to make disciples, we must keep growing. John Piper puts it this way: "mission exists because worship doesn't."

Let us live lives worthy of the calling we have received, by together building the body of Christ.

**Charles**

## LIFE at CENTRAL MAGAZINE

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

Download the magazine in colour from: <http://central.org.za>



# CARING MINISTRY

by Pastor Eric Robbins



## ***“Living in the Word”***

*Two weeks back we took a delightful break down to Mtwalume on the KZN south coast. These few days proved to be just what the doctor ordered both physically and spiritually.*

*During this time away I decided to return to a method of personal Bible reading/study that I have not used for a while. It works best over a week or two, with one of the shorter epistles. In my case I chose Second Timothy. The idea is to read it over and over again, whenever you can during the day – in short or longer bites, sometimes just a verse at a time. Do this till the passage is really filling your mind and heart. I like to think of it as living in the Word of God. Another way of describing it is to read your chosen epistle as if it is the only portion of Scripture you have available to you. It is amazing to experience the deepening of understanding and relevance that this kind of study engenders and of course it doesn't take long before you are challenged to a much deeper level of obedience.*

*The purpose of writing this is to challenge you to “live in the Word”. Why not choose an epistle today and live in it over the next two weeks. You will be amazed to see what it does to your walk with God!*

*Eric*



*Rachel Pennington*

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## **Family Bible Hour**

by Ryan van Rensburg

*Family Bible Hour takes place between 9am and 10am each Sunday during school term. It is conveniently slotted right between both Sunday morning services to ensure that as many people as possible attend. We cater for all age groups from pre-school all the way to adult. Each age group meets in a different area of the church building: pre-schoolers meet in the rooms alongside the courtyard area next to the hall, grade 1 to 3's meet downstairs in the room next to the youth hall, grade 4 to 7's meet in the choir room behind the hall stage, teenagers meet in the youth hall downstairs, and adults come together in the chapel area behind the main church sanctuary. The first half an hour is an open session for each age group which can include a time of singing, offering and brief teaching. Everyone then splits into small groups with separate teachers for bible teaching and discussion. Adults have a choice of different bible studies.*

*We would like to encourage as many people as possible to attend. If you know of any children who don't attend Sunday School please invite them along. If you yourself have never been to an adult bible class why not come along and experience good solid bible teaching and fellowship.*

# Magogong Outreach 2009

On Saturday the 4th of July, 12 very different people set out for a week's outreach to Magogong. Andrew and Ronel Murray, missionaries of our church, work with children in the surrounding areas of Pampierstad, Taung and Bonita Park. Andrew does farming and Ronel school teaching as a form of tent making.

The goal of the outreach was to run two separate holiday bible clubs, one in the Tswana township of Pampierstad (aptly named because of all the paper littering the area), and the other in the Afrikaans township of Bonita Park. Six of us ran the Tswana outreach and the other 6 the Afrikaans one. Andrew arranged for a team of local

volunteers to help out with each outreach, so that a total of about 20 volunteers helped out at each one. The holiday bible club ran from 9am to 12am from Monday to Friday and consisted of singing, dramas, bible stories, memory verses, small groups and tea and games. It was a great time of fellowship and growth for all of our team and, I believe, ministry well worth while. About 16 children gave their lives to the Lord and are now being followed up by the Murray's and local churches.

RvR



*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him."*

~ John 3:16-17



**Monday...** She sat in the chair to my left, as I taught the Bible lesson. As I looked into her eyes, I saw a sadness that penetrated deep down into her soul. Life's heaviness had borne its weight upon her. Words were few, and smiles were absent. Still a young girl, but the joy and simplicity of childhood had eluded her. Oh, to see a smile etched on that beautiful face. To see those shoulders held high, with life's burdens lifted from them. To see the twinkle in those eyes, with a joy and happiness that only a child can express. But, is it possible? Can a young life be transformed so drastically? Is there anything so powerful, so as to tear this child from the grips of sadness, pain, and difficulty? She had gripped my heart; but, what could I possibly do to help her?

**Tuesday...** Sadness still spread its feeble wings over her countenance. A smile was yet to be seen. And, as for joy and simplicity, did this child even know of such things? But, wait - what was that I heard? An answered question - words passing through the lips of this beautiful child. A simple spoken word. But, contained in that word was the slightest glimmer of hope. Maybe, just maybe, this life could be touched and transformed.

**Wednesday...** The air did not feel so heavy, as it had the previous days. Could it be that burdens were feeling lighter and slowly being lifted from the shoulders of this young child? Her face no longer held that blank expression, as it had before. I may have even caught a fleeting glimpse of a smile. She was interested - she was drinking in these lessons from the Bible. Could they possibly contain the answer to her sorrows?

**Thursday...** Where was the young girl that so captured my heart on Monday? Could this be her - answers flowing from her tongue, as she practically relays these Bible stories back to me? And, what is that I see in her eye? It looks like a twinkle. But how? It was not possible, was it? But, the answer arrived in an uplifted hand, wanting to know more about a God who had so much love for her that He sent His Son to die for her.

**Friday...** As she arrived at the church, the twinkle arrived with her. Happiness was knocking at her door, and she was on her way to answer. Her face was etched with deep concentration as she saw the bridge being built. She realised that she was a sinner separated from God; but, she wanted to be on God's side. She saw how Jesus Christ built the bridge that could bring forgiveness of sins and a safe passage to God's side. Tears formed in her voice, before they reached her eyes. In childlike faith came a prayer to God with a confession that she was a sinner. She asked Him for forgiveness and told Him that she wanted Him to come into her life and save her. She thanked God for sending His Son for her, and told Him that she wanted to live her life for Him. As the "amen" sounded, her eyes brimmed with tears and a smile lit her

face. A new member of God's family - a child of the King. Her eyes now held an unmistakable gleam. The smile on her face outwardly expressed the inner happiness she had just found. And, in a triumphant moment, she stood in front of 150 children and quoted her five memory verses word-for-word.

Is it possible? Could a young girl really be transformed so drastically? One word - God. He is the only One who can transform a sad, downcast life into one of tremendous joy. Only He is capable of working change, as He did in that young girl. He may give us the incredible blessing of being an instrument in His work; but, it is ultimately He who does the work. Words are insufficient to describe the greatness of God. Our God is truly an awesome God!

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I wanted to share this amazing true story of what God did in the life of this young girl, Kgomotso... From 4 July to 11 July, I had the amazing privilege of being part of a mission team that traveled to Magogong to host holiday clubs in two different towns. I was part of the team ministering in the Tswana area of Pampierstad. Going into the trip, I really had no idea what to expect as far as what the ministry would involve and my capacity for involvement. Initially, only speaking English, I found myself feeling inadequate and thinking I was more of a detriment than a help to the team... Well, the first day of holiday club arrived, and I welcomed my group of Grade 6 boys & girls. I found the first day to be a bit rough, as things were getting sorted out with the translator. However, the next day, and each of the successive days, I was increasingly amazed by the greatness of God. Each day, I would go into the group time with the materials I had prepared and think, "How am I ever going to fill up these 30 minutes?" 35 minutes. 40 minutes. 45 minutes later I would close in prayer, after teaching the Bible lesson and sharing the gospel with about 16 children. The final day, I think we spent nearly a full hour talking about the Bible lessons and the good news of the gospel. Let me make it very clear that none of this was of me - this was completely and totally God's working. Every day I prayed, asking God to give me the words - to speak through me - even despite the language barriers. Each and every day, that is exactly what He did. Of myself, I had nothing to offer these children. But, in my weakness and insufficiency, God was the power and strength that He has promised to be. He worked in amazing ways, as Kgomotso's story gives testament to. Not only did He work in the lives of the children, but He worked in my own heart as well. I have been reminded that there is nothing that God cannot do. So often we try to limit God based upon our own experiences and understanding - we think certain things are impossible. Not with God - we serve a God of the impossible!

**Krista Smith**

# Letter From Lauren (Central Asia)

## David's Story

On the 3rd day of the camp for Children with Diabetes in May 2009, I asked one of the boys, "David" to tell me his story.

*"I am 20 years old, I have 3 sisters and a brother. When we were young our mother looked after us alone because she had got divorced during the civil war.*

*In December 2001 when I was in Grade 6, I forgot some schoolwork at home and as a punishment I had to stand up and sit down 200 times. After doing this I felt very bad. I started to go to the toilet many times a day and to be very thirsty and drink a lot. I also started having bad dreams and I got very thin. My family made a complaint against the teacher but took it back because the teacher was from a very poor family.*

*One morning I woke up at 3 o'clock in the morning and was very thirsty but there wasn't any water at home. Then I went to the doctor in our region and the doctor said my sugar level was 17.5. We didn't believe this and went to a different hospital and there it was 13. I had Ketoacidosis and spent 1½ months at the hospital. They taught me how to use Insulin in the hospital. When I got home I was taking insulin 5 times a day and was reasonably stable."*

*During a national holiday in 2003 my family went to visit many people as is customary. It was very cold and my legs got very, very cold. My shoes were not warm enough. It was only me and my cousin at home and we went to bed at about 10/11pm. It was raining and I wasn't feeling well at all. My heart was beating very fast."*

*They took me to the hospital and at that stage I couldn't walk. I had had an overdose of insulin and went in a coma for a month. When I came out of the coma I had a problem with my feet. I was wearing socks but my feet were very cold but I felt as if they were very warm. When I took off my socks there were big blisters on my feet. The doctors said it was because of my unstable sugar levels. We were sent to another hospital and there they didn't believe that the condition of my feet was due to diabetes and sent me back to the first place. After that I didn't want to go around and around anymore and they took me back to the hospital in the region.*

*My veins were so hardened that they couldn't do intravenous injections in my arm and had to do it on the shoulders. I lost a lot of blood and my blood type was rare. My mom had the same blood type but she had hepatitis. My sister who had the same blood type gave ½ L of her blood. After this the blisters on my legs burst.*

*A specialist said that my legs had become gangrenous. They put a lot of alcohol on my legs and said that both legs needed amputation. My mom was very upset about this and took me home and said we would do treatment at home. My feet were black and like stone. Some time after that I took 3 of my toes off myself and became unconscious after that."*

I looked at his feet which had socks on them and saw that some of his toes were not there and half of his left foot wasn't there but he seemed to have got used to it. In addition to his problem with his feet he also has diabetic retinopathy and only 60% sight. His teeth are in a very bad condition and most of them have fallen out. He told us he goes for tests every week but he has to travel one hour to get there and often they were not able to do tests.

*"All I want is a Glucometer so I don't have to go for tests so often. My sister might buy one for me in Russia in August for my birthday but that is a long time to wait."*

On the last day of the camp we were able to give David a Glucometer together with 50 strips! He was very thankful for these strips. ***Please pray for David's physical and spiritual health.***



20 year old David happy to have his Glucometer and strips



# ABBA House Happenings...



By Miriam Cain

**The last six months have been eventful at ABBA House!** We held a volunteers' tea to celebrate our ninth anniversary, our miracle baby that was mentioned in my last article turned one and was adopted! And sadly our **really tiny one** passed away. He had fought hard but there were just too many things stacked against him. Look how



tiny his feet were in comparison to a man's hands! A funeral is never easy but it is the last way we can care for that baby and it is important to validate his life

and recognise the need our staff and volunteers have for closure. Pastor Charles De Kiewit held the service for us and the statement that really stood out for me was: *"Our confidence is in God who is generous with grace"*. What a wonderful comfort – not only in terms of loss but also in terms of failings in our own lives.

We deal with loss in our baby home often but thankfully it is usually because we have said good-bye when a special baby goes to their adoptive family. In the nine years we have been open, we have only had three babies who have turned one year old in the Nursery. Our **miracle baby** was our latest. He finally went to his adoptive parents when he was 15mths old – even the other babies missed him! The photo below is of these two at 11¼ and 1½ months respectively.



Our **Anniversary Tea** had six very special guests – two of our adopted children and their parents! We were thrilled that Gareth and Michelle were able to be there with their daughter, Joy. Kamo, the little boy, is now 3yrs old. It's always great to see the children bonded to their parents and growing and developing well!

## THE 'BABY SAFE'

Last year I reported that three Tukkies students undertook to build the *Baby Safe* where mothers could safely leave their babies. This year we had a group of 2<sup>nd</sup> year marketing and communication students from TUT who needed to do a CSI (corporate social investment) project for their practicals. We decided that our highest priority was raising awareness of the *Baby Safe*.



This they did by arranging an 'official opening' of the Baby Safe, which received media coverage, and with a day's event at Marabastad where they distributed over 1000 leaflets and put up about 300 posters. They were able to speak to many, many people as they moved through the bus and taxi terminus. The response was very positive and taxi drivers even allowed them to put the posters inside of their taxi's! The contrast between our posters urging mothers to save the life of their babies and the illegal abortion posters was striking!

**Please join us in praying** that the right people will become aware of this facility and that many lives are saved through the *Baby Safe* and the counselling services of *Neobirth*. Also please continue to pray for the health and permanency planning of our four special-needs babies. Thank you for your supportive role in this ministry and please never underestimate the value of your prayers!

19<sup>th</sup> August 2009

# ***THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD***

***by Noel Durrheim***

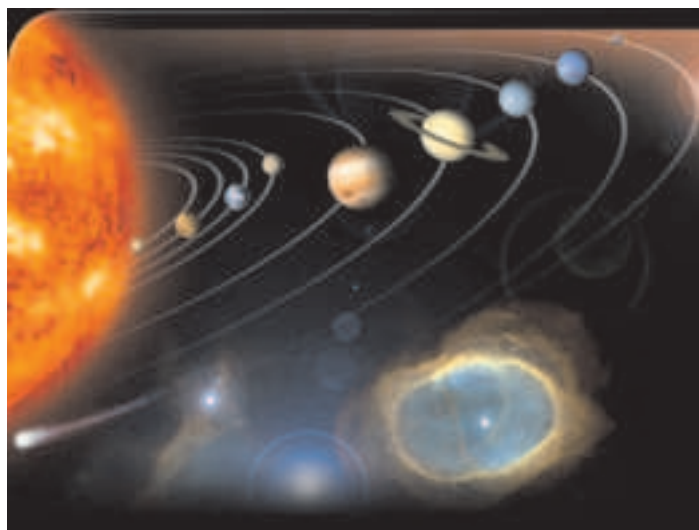
When visiting Australia one continually encounters the country's national flag, which seems to be on display everywhere, from government buildings to postboxes on the pavements. The components of the national emblem have special significance not only in the political sphere, but also in the astronomical realm:

- The British Union Jack in the top left corner symbolises Australia's links with Great Britain
- Four seven pointed stars and the one five pointed star represents the constellation of stars of the Southern Cross indicating Australia's geographic location in the Southern hemisphere



- The larger seven pointed star under the Union Jack represents the six states and the Federal Territories of the Commonwealth of Australia

As an amateur astronomer, my attention was naturally attracted to the representation of the Southern Cross on the national flag. During a recent visit to Australia my wife and I had the privilege of spending time with our children in the Hunter Valley in New South Wales. What a treat it was to be able to observe the stars in a crystal clear sky on a moonless night. (What a contrast with stargazing in Gauteng, S.A., where viewing is severely restricted by atmospheric and light pollution.) The prominence of the Southern Cross affirmed its position on the national flag. The Milky Way (derived from Latin "Via Lactea"), our spiral galaxy, which when viewed from Pretoria appears to be a smudge of light spread across the night sky, whereas various star clusters and nebulae are more readily distinguishable when observed



from Australia. The enormity of the Milky Way will be appreciated when one realises that it contains more than 100 billion stars and has a diameter of 100,000 light years.

(Note: Counting one star a second, it would take more than 3000 years to tally the stars in our galaxy.)

## ***2009 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY***

This year marks the 400th anniversary of Galileo Galilei's (G.G.) momentous invention of the world's first refracting telescope in 1609, with which he studied the sky. G.G. discovered inter alia, the satellites of Jupiter, the rings of Saturn, he also observed the spots on the Sun. (G.G. is acknowledged as being the founder of modern mathematics and experimental physics.) Mankind's knowledge of the amazing universe expanded exponentially due to the invention of the telescope.

The full potential of all earth-based telescopes, no matter how powerful they may be, cannot be realised due to the problem posed by the earth's atmosphere.

The Hubble Space Telescope (HST), which was launched in 1990, revolutionised astronomy. It orbits the Earth every 96 minutes at a distance of 575 km, far above the distorting effects of the Earth's atmosphere. The HST has provided unprecedented deep and clear views of the Universe, e.g. breathtaking photographs taken by



it of the spectacular Sombrero Galaxy, in the constellation Virgo, the wide brim of which spans 50,000 light years. This galaxy lies 28 million light years from Earth! (A team of astronauts aboard the space shuttle Atlantis carried out routine maintenance and upgraded the systems of the HST, thereby prolonging its useful life, during May 2009.)



Until recently astronomers had no accurate measure of the number of stars and galaxies in the observable universe. This situation changed in 2005 when scientists aimed the HST at a little patch of sky no bigger than 10% of the Moon's diameter for a million seconds (278 hours). Astronomers successfully imaged all the galaxies that could possibly reside in that region, i.e. 10,000 galaxies. They then extrapolated this to determine the population of the whole sky and arrived at a total of 200 billion galaxies, containing an average of 200 billion stars each. Thus the total number of stars in these galaxies adds up to about 40 billion trillion! (This number excludes the stars contained in unobserved dwarf galaxies.)

Let us step back from the macro universe to our own galaxy, the Milky Way, our solar system, and our planet Earth to contemplate an event that took place almost two decades ago. On 14 February 1990 the spacecraft Voyager I was traveling on the fringes of the solar system when Carl Sagan, well known astronomer and writer, persuaded NASA to turn the spacecraft around for one last look at Earth. In doing so a portrait of our world was captured from a distance of 6,4 billion kilometers away. Earth appeared as a tiny point of light, a crescent only 0.12 pixels in size!

Writing about this in his book **"Pale Blue Dot"**, Carl Sagan stated: *"Look at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it every one you love, every one you know, every one you have ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives here"*

*"- Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and emperors, so that, in their glory and triumph they could become the momentary masters of a fraction of a dot"*

*"- Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet is a speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark"*

Sagan concludes by portraying man's destiny as absolutely devoid of hope:

*"In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves."*

As a non-theist, Sagan, recognises that human survivability on Earth has limits and sees only nothingness beyond, whereas those who accept the Bible's message recognise the Universe as a preparation for something far greater. This is put into proper perspective in Psalm 8:3-4:

***"When I view and consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the Moon and the Stars which You have ordained and established. What is man that You are mindful of him and the son of man that You care for him?"***

The immense Universe, in which human beings seem to dwindle into mere specks, cosmic non-entities, pales into insignificance in the light of the amazing Grace of God revealed by the Lord Jesus Christ, the Creator, visiting Earth as a man and in His vicarious Death and Resurrection for lost mankind. Those who put their trust in Him are eternally significant, being adopted into His family thereby becoming ***heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ!*** (Romans 8:17)

***HALLELUJAH!***

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# WOMEN's VALUE

Lana Pelser and Carol de Kiewit



August is Women's month! Women are warm and caring beings, and here are a few issues near to their hearts:

## **MENTORING...**

### ***Mentoring to me is:***

- \* An ear to listen with
- \* A shoulder to cry on
- \* An arm to comfort
- \* An eye to look at the situation from another point of view
- \* A finger to look through God's Word for comfort and strength
- \* A heart to love with God's love

To me mentoring is sharing a part of your life for a season. It is an opportunity to support you through a difficult time, when you want an answer to WHY? It is until you progress to ask the next question, WHAT? What do I need to learn from this?

### ***Mentoring to you is:***

An opportunity to be honest about your burdens. A time to be challenged to look at things from a fresh perspective. Learning about forgiveness and getting it right! Learning to trust the Lord, even when you don't understand. It might require you to read a book or watch a DVD which details what you are going through. It is a journey to strengthen your faith by growing in the knowledge of God's Word. It is ultimately about setting you free in a renewed relationship with the one who loves you so much, He even numbers the hairs on your head!

*(Kathy Lithgow)*

## **TEACHING...**

Teachers are indeed emotionally involved with "their" children and that makes teaching more than just a job!

### ***What can parents do to help teachers?***

Show an interest in your child's work. The school syllabus is much more difficult than parents think!

Show your co-operation and support the school,

and try to understand the challenges your child is faced with daily. If you have a problem, discuss it with the teacher (not outsiders) – they are there to help.

It is important that you realise that the death of a pet or grandparent, or parents who fight, or work very long hours, can greatly upset a young child, so please inform us if anything is wrong at home.

Currently the economic recession is starting to leave its mark and in some cases parents lose their jobs. This has an extremely stressful effect on the child, but most schools can help with uniforms, stationary and food.

*(Article in an Alberton newsletter - Lana's daughter – Grade 1 teacher)*

***"I can do everything through Christ  
who strengthens me."  
- Phillippians 4:13***

## **2009 FASHION...**

Those who are into fashion will deck themselves in eye-popping colours, and they will become the center of attraction where ever they go. Spring fashion also trends to feature flower themes. The unexpected integration of colours can also make fashion very appealing!

The top 10 colours for 2009 are:

- American Beauty
- Purple Heart
- Honey Yellow
- Iron
- Crème Brûlée
- Nomad
- Burnt Sienna
- Rapture Rose
- Warm Olive
- Majolica Blue

*(Internet)*

The best way to dress up is to put on a smile.

***"The Lord does not look at the things  
man looks at. Man looks at outward  
appearance; but the Lord looks at the  
heart." - I Samuel 16:7***



## ***LIVING WITH FOOD ALLERGIES...***

With the number of children living with food allergies / intolerances seemingly on the increase, here are some things to think about... from Mom's with children with food allergies...

Food allergies and intolerances are not the same as a dislike of a food. Eating, or sometimes even just touching, a food one is allergic to can have serious consequences.

It is not "Agh shame!", but rather: "You are doing so well to look after yourself! I wish I had that kind of discipline".

Read food labels every time you go shopping as ingredients in products change even without the package saying "new and improved". Two recent examples: (1). A margarine manufacturer added "whey" to their product making it no longer suitable for people sensitive to dairy. They added a small stamp "whey" on the bottoms of their tubs. (2). Two chips manufacturers added maltodextrin to their plain salted products without changing the packaging except including maltodextrin to their ingredients list. This makes the product unsuitable for people sensitive to maize.

If in doubt, phone the manufacturer. Be aware that they may take a day or two to contact the food technician or the food technician to contact the supplier of an ingredient before they can answer your question.

Phone restaurants ahead of time to check if there are foods on the menu that will be suitable (e.g. what oil their chips are fried in, if they can make grilled chicken without marinade or are all their portions pre-marinated).

Don't be embarrassed to take along your own food to functions (or your own tomato sauce when going to Spur).

Don't feel offended if someone brings their own

food to your function!

When invited to other people's houses, ask the hostess what will be on the menu so that you can either bring a similar dish for yourself / your child, or bring a plate of eats that others can also share.

There is no single answer to allergies/ intolerances. You need to experiment to find out what works in your situation. You may be able to tolerate the offending food in moderation. Or you may be in a family with more than one child and each child has a different set of allergies.

Support the parents of children living with food allergies, e.g. at school, parties and other functions.

It is very difficult for children to see other people eating "nice" foods, like brightly iced cakes or sweets and they themselves have to do without or with something much less interesting. If there is a child in a school class with allergies, try to keep them in mind when sending cake to school for birthdays. The parents would appreciate a phone call from you or the school so that they can provide something similar / special for their child or you may offer to change what you bring to make that child's day special too. Colourful, non-edible decorations also go a long way to make the not so colourful food more attractive.

Children also really appreciate it if other people have made food they can safely eat instead of something mommy made (again!).

### ***Useful resources:***

South African cookbook for allergies and food intolerance, by Hilda Lategan.

(Nicole Barberton)

***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and lean not unto your own  
understanding. In all your ways,  
acknowledge Him, And He will direct  
your path."***

***Proverbs 3:5-6***

## ***WORRYING / OR NOT...***

- ✿ You shall not worry, for worry is the most unproductive of all human activities.
- ✿ You shall not be fearful, for most of the things we fear never come to pass.
- ✿ You shall not carry grudges, for they are the heaviest of all life's burdens.
- ✿ You shall not take problems to bed with you, for they make very poor bedfellows.
- ✿ You shall not borrow other people's problems. They can better care for them than you.
- ✿ You shall not try to re-live yesterday for good or ill, it is forever gone.
- ✿ You shall not become "bogged down" by frustration, for 90% of it is rooted in self-pity and will only interfere with positive action.
- ✿ You shall be a good listener, for only when you listen do you hear ideas different from your own.
- ✿ You shall face each problem as it comes. You can only handle one at a time anyway

***"Do not worry about anything; instead PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING."  
Philippians 4:6***

# ***Letter from Carol***

### ***My dear Friends***

It is unfortunate that we all live such busy lives that we don't have the time to fellowship more together as women.

In the 'good old days' the communities were a lot closer, so as the ladies worked with their hands, making soap, garments or food, they often worked together.

The older women would be teaching the younger women the work they were doing. They would be there to watch closely and guide the young moms in raising their children. They had the time to get involved in one another's lives. Share each others burdens, laugh together, cry together and certainly help one another.

I am convinced there was much talking and sharing that happened as they worked.

Today, we still do lots of talking, however not enough to other women who can encourage, guide and give us Godly inspiration.

Often most of our talking consists of giving superficial information about ourselves or our families. There's lots of moaning and

complaining but little deep sharing, encouragement and speaking of the things of the Lord.

The **MENTORING MINISTRY** is just such a Biblical and Godly concept which can certainly aid the growth of Christian women today.

In some ways it can bring back that chatter between women as they go about their daily tasks.

Our mentoring ministry here at Central Baptist is coming along really nicely. I have heard some very heart warming stories of how young ladies have been encouraged, taught and directed with every-day issues.

We now have 15 mentoring couples which are running effectively.

If you would like to be a mentor or a 'mentoree' please come and speak to me or phone me on 0835608411 and I would love to pair you up with somebody who you will be able to bless and encourage. This is a win-win situation, both the mentor and 'mentoree' are blessed and encouraged.

**THE LADIES RETREAT** is also around the corner. I do want to encourage you to attend. I



realise it does cost a lot of money, however you will discover good value for your money. We are looking at a luxury 4 star weekend. You don't even have to bring a sleeping bag, you will be sleeping in between crisp, clean sheets.

If you cannot come for the whole weekend, let me encourage you to come just for the day. There will be 4 speaking sessions in all, of which 3 of them will be on Saturday:

Session 1 at 08:45,  
Session 2 at 10:45,  
Session 3 at 16:00.

This is another opportunity for fellowship and chatter like our ancient women enjoyed – except there will be no work involved.

This will be a time:

- to meet new friends
- to get to know others better
- to come apart from your busy world
- to rest and refresh
- to reflect
- to meet with the Lord
- to catch up on your hand-work (bring it along)
- to eat a meal uninterrupted
- to feast on the Word of God
- to sleep uninterrupted
- to be spoiled
- to laugh with others who will appreciate your

jokes even though you might forget the end!

- to enjoy God's beautiful creation
- to enjoy somebody else's cooking for a whole weekend
- to see your husband and children to bond!
- to after the weekend readily accept your husband's appreciation for all you do every day!
- to learn from others
- to encourage others

Do you get the point or should I continue to give you more reasons why you should not miss our retreat, because there are plenty more?

The most important reason for you to come to our retreat is to again be reminded of the Lord Jesus' love for you.

He is your Prince and you are His Princess. Come and experience His life-saving kisses.

***“ABANDON YOURSELF TO THE  
GREATEST ROMANCE OF YOUR LIFE  
BY FALLING IN LOVE WITH JESUS  
ALL OVER AGAIN”***

Hope to see your name on the list. God continue to bless you, keep you and give you His peace.

*Your sister in Christ - Carol*

"Advice is like snow; the softer  
it falls, the longer it dwells  
upon, and the deeper it sinks  
into the mind."

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge*

# God at work in Zambia

## – a brief account, by Eugene van Heerden –

Beginning of June finds the planning committee around a table, munching on burgers (for any self-respecting Baptist to be productive on an empty stomach would be criminal) and confirming that the last arrangements are in place for the 2009 outreach to Zambia.

“Do we have the final confirmed participants?”, I ask.

“George Ngamlana, uncle Phil, Nelson Abraham, Brandon Boman, Peter Vumisa, Kenneth Segoi, Eric Robbins and Shadrach Monageng”, answers Tony.

Air tickets booked, vehicles ready and suddenly ten volunteers realise that the mission trip to Zambia is upon them.

About eight or so years ago a certain doctor who is now part of CBC pastoral team was given a vision for work in Zambia, in and around the copper-belt areas. This was to be the beginning of the partnership between the Northern Zambia Baptist Association and the South African Baptist Union. It grew out of the need for local pastors and church leaders to be equipped to lead their flock more successfully. It was then decided by the NBAZ, about two years into the outreach programme, that teaching a book of the Bible would meet the immediate needs of the leaders and congregation more aptly. Thus the *Trans Africa Training* programme started. As the years go by, some regional leaders have responded and are now asking for more specific help with their curriculae at their little regional colleges. One such person is Pastor Puma from Katembula. He has requested direct and specific help to assist in teaching the young Bible students

Central has become an integral part of the outreach into Zambia and has enjoyed the blessing of God in making so many of its members available to participate every year. It is important to note that these things do not happen in a vacuum and we are continually called to account for our time away and how funds were appropriated. I need to add here that it can hardly be any different considering that we report to Dave Temple and not least to Lammie for the funds.

But there are certain things that have to happen to make such an outreach a reality: The most important factor is that God must be part of the planning - every step of the way; the church must give it's blessing; and funds must be available. It is truly amazing to see how God's tapestry unfolds each year as new people lend colour and new patterns to this extraordinary and beautiful work. None of us are indispensable, yet God graciously makes us bold and strong to deliver His Word for those few days.

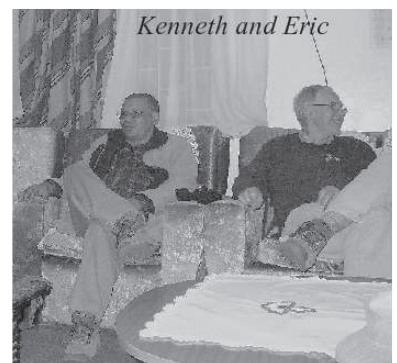
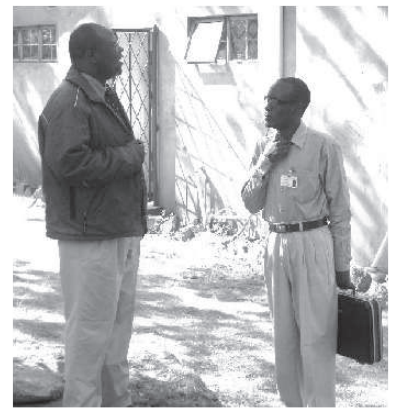
Having been involved with the planning and logistics for the past seven years, I suppose one can switch to auto pilot, and I must admit that at times the temptation to do so is very real. But then I consider Paul's introduction to the Colossians and soon realise that in God's work shortcuts are not an option. Paul was imprisoned when writing to the Colossians, but that did not stop him from encouraging and warning them of the wolves in their midst – and that to a congregation he had not even seen!

Much prayer and sweat had gone into our preparation to teach the book of Colossians, yet one was still left wondering if enough had been done.

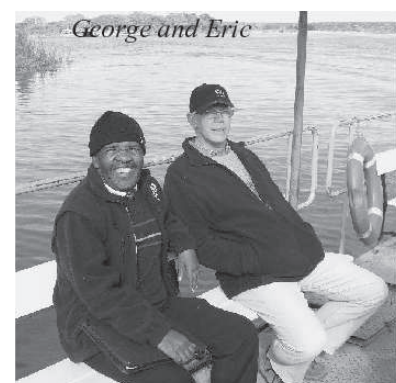
Three days and 3400 km lie ahead of us. We leave at 4o'clock on Thursday morning 25 June, committing the journey and all that lies ahead into the hands of our Lord. Friday morning we cross into Zambia via ferry over the Zambezi – always a special moment for all. After having our sanctification tested to its limits by the Zambian customs officials, we tackle the long haul to Lusaka where we will spend the night with our longstanding hosts, Ross and Rudi Sauter.



Brandon



Kenneth and Eric



George and Eric



We enjoy a meal fit for the proverbial king (remember that we perform at peak when fed well!) and then a good night's sleep in a comfortable bed – the last for the next eight days. On the road to Ndola we notice that the world economic downturn is having a severe impact on the Zambian people. Poverty is evident everywhere.

It does not take long for Brandon to find a theological sparring partner, and soon enough, he and uncle Phil are going toe to toe on the doctrine of predestination. Maybe just a word of warning to the young and energetic out there: when you want to get into the ring as Brandon did, make sure you choose your weight division well!

It was good to have uncle Phil back with us, his health restored, and we thank God for blessing him with health and strength, enabling him to participate in the outreach and to share his wisdom.

Sunday morning. And the team is preparing to go to various churches to preach. The Sunday best was unpacked – or not (Brandon) and a very formal pose – or not (Brandon) was struck for the official group photograph. Preaching starts approximately on average roundabout 10.30 and could end at approximately, more or less (give and take an hour) 2 pm. But we love it! It is the first contact we have with those we have come to serve.

Sunday afternoon we gather at Pensulu's house to fellowship and discuss the week of teaching that lies ahead. When head meets pillow all goes quiet.

The teams leave Monday morning for their various stations – all except uncle Phil and Shadrach who left Sunday afternoon for Kafulafuta. Eric and Tony are assigned to teach at Chiwala East – a new centre literally in the middle of the bush. Peter Vumisa and Kenneth Segoi (a pastor from the Northern Cape) head out to Mkushi on the road to Tanzania. George Ngamlana and Nelson Abraham (the new missions developer) hold the fort at Fiwale Hill, teaching the college students. Brandon and I make our way to Katembula, north-west of Kitwe in the government plantation. We are met by Pastor Puma, the regional developer and some familiar faces, and it is soon evident that he and Brandon would develop a keen friendship in the next few days. We were also accompanied by Pastor Jackson who interpreted for us.

Most of us can only enjoy small portions of the local enshima (pap) but Brandon couldn't get enough of the stuff! I do believe that this gave rise to Pastor Puma holding him in such high regard! Our teaching started at 9.00 in the morning and we would split the day into four or five sessions. In the evening we would share our testimonies or preach a gospel message with a challenge at the end. Thursday morning, Brandon, Jackson and I are at the church early to prepare for the test to be written – a practice introduced by Pstr. Charles. There is great excitement as papers and pens are handed out and Jackson starts writing the questions on the blackboard.

The test completed, we prepare to leave and tackle the long road home.

Over too soon!

But thanks to God, the Almighty who encourages, leads, inspires and, through His grace, makes what is written in His word real to some ordinary men who volunteered to teach it, and to the people who travelled far to hear it.



*Ross and Tony*



*just doing what good baptists do!*



*Which way, did you say, George?*



*Silhouettes at the zambezi*

# Communicating the Gospel to POSTMODERN PEOPLE

One always has to be thinking about **the how of ministry**. We cannot close our eyes to the context of our day in what is being called the “postmodern era”.

## 1. What influences are affecting this generation?

For meaningful ministry to take place the person living in the 21st Century must be taken seriously. Helmut Thielicke says, “*The Gospel must be constantly forwarded to a new address because the recipient is repeatedly changing place of residence*” (1995:1). Christians in every context, including the postmodern context need to know and understand their audience.

In the 21st century there has been a **growing dissatisfaction** with this modern way of viewing things. ...*in many quarters of our common world there exists an increasingly shared conviction that the modern world is dying, if not already dead... ”at the dawn of the 21st century – awash in the blood of ideological and nationalistic conflict, beset by pandemic viruses, and standing at the brink of ecological disaster – such confidence has been all but sentenced to the gallows, and the name of its executioner is postmodernity.* (Lose 2003:1)

The postmodern person **critically questions** everything. The so-called sacred and previously untouchable values and traditions no longer find unquestioning acceptance. Postmodernism, after all, maintains that a person can really only say, “*according to my perception, that is true*”. (Johnston 2001:29).

If there are **no absolutes** in the objective realm, neither can there be absolutes in the subjective realm. There can be no fixed identity, no sense of self, and no unified human soul (Veith 1994:83) and as such postmodernists are facing an identity crisis.

In a postmodern society, **multiple standards of morality** may apply and situation ethics prevail. The same act may be deemed right or wrong depending on the situation and motivation. Morality, like belief, becomes a matter not of principle but of “*what works for me*” (Noonan 1994:217).

With the loss of any external measurement for gauging



what is true, all that remains is the inner sense of what seems and feels comfortable. This inward look has produced a greater realization of the spiritual capacity of human beings. Postmodernists have embarked on a new search for **the transcendent**.

Postmodernists are more informal and are on a quest for community. The **authenticity of relationships** and the integrity of community hold a powerful attraction for a new generation of young people struggling to find something lasting in today’s throwaway culture – something precious in the midst of a society that feeds on trash and greed. (Iliffe 1996:38)

**Generation Xers** are keen to experience life to the full. One need only observe the booming entertainment; electronic games and sporting industries to see how hard people are willing to work at their play (Johnston 2001:57).

## 2. How do we engage Postmodern influenced Audience?

### 2.1 Engaging listeners by drawing near rather than alienating

The more opposition people encounter, the more entrenched they become in their belief systems. By directly attacking a person’s belief systems or behaviour places that person on the defensive and may go on to strengthen the very beliefs you are attempting to dislodge. Ministry involves confrontation but there are **ways to confront** and effectively challenge both postmodern beliefs and biblical unbelief.



### 2.1.1 Build Relationships

The Apostle Paul following the model of Christ offered and gave of himself in ministry to people. Paul did so “...in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in *sincere love*” (2 Corinthians 6:6). A gentle rather than aggressive rapport will lead to authentic communication.

### 2.1.2 Tune in to the contemporary world

This was **the approach** of the Apostle Paul in Acts 17. His preaching shows evidence of some prior inquiry into the nature of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophies, which disregarded any belief in the afterlife. Postmodernists presume the Bible is irrelevant to contemporary society; the preacher must convince his listeners otherwise. Jesus excelled in knowing how to engage his hearers in their own context.

### 2.1.3 Address the mind and the heart

The postmodern context challenges the church to abandon a style of communication that aims at **downloading information** on its members. It calls the church both to a style of communication that involves life experiences and expectations of its members, and that appeal to all their faculties and not solely their intellect.

## 2.2 The Sacred Communicator

With so much technology, skills training and development available to preachers in the 21st century there is a tendency and danger to forget the indispensable work of **the Holy Spirit**. The declaration of Jesus remains true to this day: “*apart from me you can do nothing*” (John 15:5).

### 2.2.1 The unavoidable focus of Christ

According to Jesus own teaching the Holy Spirit will communicate truth **concerning Jesus Himself** (John 14:26; John 15:26; John 16:13-15). Jesus will be the sum and substance of the Spirit’s revelatory ministry. The **predominant work of the Holy Spirit** is to reveal and glorify Jesus Christ, a fact of which we must never lose sight if we are ever to anticipate the power of the Holy Spirit (Azurdia III 2003:51).

**References:** Azurdia III, Arturo G 2003. *Spirit Empowered Preaching*. Great Britain: Christian Focus Publishers.; Illiffe, James 1996. “Searching for Reality in a Postmodern Age,” *On Being*. (September 1996); Johnston, G 2001. *Preaching to a Postmodern world*. England: Inter-Varsity Press.; Lose, David, J 2003. *Confessing Jesus Christ: Preaching in a Postmodern World*. Grand



## The Sandbox

A little boy was spending his Saturday morning playing in his sandbox. He had with him his box of cars and trucks, his plastic pail, and a shiny, red plastic shovel.

In the process of creating roads and tunnels in the soft sand, he discovered a large rock in the middle of the sandbox. The lad dug around the rock, managing to dislodge it from the dirt. With no little bit of struggle, he pushed and nudged the rock across the sandbox by using his feet. (He was a very small boy and the rock was very huge.)

When the boy got the rock to the edge of the sandbox, however, he found that he couldn’t roll it up and over the little wall. Determined, the little boy shoved, push and pried, but every time he thought he had made some progress, the rock tipped and then fell back into the sandbox.

The little boy grunted, struggled, pushed, shoved but his only reward was to have the rock roll back, smashing his chubby fingers. Finally he burst into tears of frustration. All this time the boy’s father watched from his living room window as the drama unfolded.

At the moment the tears fell, a large shadow fell across the boy and the sandbox. It was the boy’s father. Gently but firmly he said, “Son, why didn’t you use all the strength that you had available?”

Defeated, the boy sobbed back, “But I did, Daddy, I did! I used all the strength that I had!”

“No, son,” corrected the father kindly. “You didn’t use all the strength you had. You didn’t ask me.” With that the father reached down, picked up the rock, and removed it from the sandbox.

Sound familiar??? We all have rocks to move. We need to go directly to our Father to get the job done!

**“My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart  
and my portion forever.”  
Psalm 73:26**



# Kids Bible Wordsearch

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

People in the  
book of Acts  
Puzzle #4

Acts Chapter 1:1-12

ABRAHAM  
ALEXANDER  
ANANIAS  
ANDREW  
ANNAS  
BARSABAS  
CAIAPHAS  
DAVID  
ISAAC  
JACOB  
JAMES  
JESUS



JOHN  
JOSEPH  
JOSES  
MARY  
MATTHEW  
MATTHIAS  
PHILIP  
PILATE  
SAMUEL  
SAPPHIRA  
THEOPHILUS  
THOMAS

BARTHOLOMEW  
BARNABAS

<http://biblewordgames.com>

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Here I am, LORD!

I thank you and praise you  
for all your wonderful blessings!

I will delight in everything  
you have given me.

I put my trust in you.

You are always at my side,  
and today I will have everything I need.

Forgive me for the times  
I have disappointed you.

Guide me and teach me.  
Fill me with your power,  
so that in everything I do  
I will be a delight to you!

## The Children of Israel

from <http://www.christian-jokes.org>

"Mr. Goldblatt," announced little Joey, "there's somethin' I can't figger out."

"What's that Joey?" asked Goldblatt.

"Well accordin' to the Bible, the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?"

"Right."

"An' the Children of Israel beat up the Phillistines, right?"

"Er--right."

"An' the Children of Israel built the Temple, right?"

"Again you're right."

"An' the Children of Israel fought the 'gyptians, an' the Children of Israel fought the Romans, an' the Children of Israel wuz always doin' somethin' important, right?"

"All that is right, too," agreed Goldblatt. "So what's your question?"

"What I wanna know is this," demanded Joey.

"What wuz all the grown-ups doin'?"



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*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

*You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.*

*So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!". The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*

*Romans 8*