

June 2010

life at CENTRAL

Central Baptist Church, Pretoria

life@central.org.za



Forgetting
what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I
press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me
heavenward in Christ Jesus. - *Philippians 3:13-14*



PASTOR'S CORNER



Senior Pastor: Charles de Kiewit

Dear friends

There are only a few days left before the Soccer World Cup event kicks off here in South Africa. Some may well ask what that has to do with us as a local church. Should we be climbing on the band wagon or should we have let this event pass us by without affecting our regular ministry?

I am convinced that there is a God given opportunity here for gospel ministry. With so many visitors from the nations of the world entering our 'backyard' how can we not make an effort in passing on the good news of the gospel?

A ministry team under the leadership of Pastor Quentin and Kevin Zac have been preparing to be involved in hospitality and evangelism. We will host a number of the games via 'big screen events' in our hall here at the church facility. It is our intention to show hospitality to visitors and then use the opportunity to share the gospel with them.

I cannot help thinking of Paul's words to the Corinthians ...I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do this for the sake of the gospel that I may share in its blessings (9v22-23). Won't you join us in becoming a soccer fan to save some?

We have repeatedly been told that there will be more people than we can imagine visiting our city to be part of this spectacular event. Let us then scatter the 'seed' trusting God for the harvest.

Thank you to all who have served and will serve in this outreach event. This along with much of what we do leads to "building the church" – which we do in obedience to the great commission to make disciples of the nations.

Looking forward to seeing you at a game ... for the sake of the gospel and Christ's glory.

Charles

LIFE at CENTRAL MAGAZINE

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

Past editions (2006 to 2009) 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.

Editors: Kim Gush and Daniel Salzwedel

CARING MINISTRY

by Pastor Eric Robbins



“Just One Cup”

I am staying with my friends way out in the scorching Namib Desert. It is a humble Damara home with few if any modern facilities. The food is great and my every need is being catered for, but I am desperately thirsty and cannot find the family water source. So I watch carefully where everyone else goes and eventually discover a large calabash hanging in a tree. Inside that calabash is the coolest most refreshing water I have ever tasted . . . but there is only one cup there, a tin mug, that every body else also uses too. The Bible verse comes to mind as I return and drink deeply from that mug over and over again. “Let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price”. Right there in that lonely desert place I see again the mug of salvation freely available for all thirsty people.

This incident really happened to me back in our days as missionaries in Namibia and I will never forget the lesson it taught me. We who have accepted Christ are one in Christ. We are all drinking, by faith, from one Cup of Salvation in Christ. There is no special cup for certain special people. There is just one cup. And this thought should keep us humble and dependent as we learn to accept each other and work together for the Glory of God.

As your Care Pastor I want to encourage you to express this unity in Christ in any possible way you can. There are such great opportunities to do this right here in our own congregation. Think and act creatively and enjoy it!

Eric



*let the one who
desires take the
water of life
without price*

TRIP TO THE UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH YOUTH CONFERENCE IN ZIMBABWE

by Quentin Saunders

I had the opportunity to visit Zimbabwe in April. I was invited to be one of the speakers at the United Baptist Church Youth Fellowship Annual National Youth Conference held in Biriri, about 90km outside of Mutare.

I have met so many people from Zimbabwe in South Africa over the last couple of years. Some of them attend Central Baptist and some we meet at the church gate looking for food, jobs and a better life in South Africa. I grabbed the opportunity to visit the country, as I really needed to see what was going on in the country for myself. The last person I met from Zimbabwe before I left was a young man aged 21. He told me that those who speak about politics in Zimbabwe just “disappear”, and that their neighbours would also just “disappear” if they ask too many questions - that sounded hectic. I wanted to see what it was like in Zimbabwe. Is it really as bad as they say, or was he just playing with my feelings to get me to sympathise with him and give him more clothes and food? I also wanted to go to Zimbabwe to be an encouragement to the believers and to strengthen them, as well as to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ that brings salvation.

I had no idea what to expect from Zimbabwe. What would the country look like, and what would the spiritual condition of the people be like? As I landed, I was surprised by the friendliness of the people. I was picked up at the airport and I couldn't wait to go into one of the shops to see if they had supplies and stock on the shelves, especially after just hearing and seeing the negative publicity in the news.

Well, I was told that things are getting better and saw it for myself. The shops were stocked with whatever people needed. Except change! Working in US Dollars and South African Rand, they hardly have any change, mostly notes! So you would end up buying much more than you needed to, or walk out of the shops with a hand full of sweets for the change.

I spent my first night in Harare with Mr. Stephen and Mrs. Chipso Gwasira and their family. To my surprise they immediately recognized me from their visit to South Africa in December. They had heard one of my sermons, and also attended a wedding Pastor Charles did for someone in their family, so I really felt at home.

As we got to their home, Mr Stephen immediately invited me to join him for an interdenominational Bible study called BSF (Bible Study Fellowship). I am glad I went even though I was tired. We got to the venue and the place was buzzing with men and... one lost lady! All getting ready for the Bible study. There were about 200 men who gathered on a week night for a two hour Bible study. The facilitator had to stand outside the building to lead us through the window! Even though I was in Africa, I was informed that one of the rules of this Bible study was that it starts and ends on time. Wow, that is a first for Africa! We sang some hymns and then divided into small groups. In the small groups they discussed the passage and questions they had to answer during the week. I joined the introductory group with the new people for an overview of the course.

After that all of us again got together for teaching. One of the men, a Doctor in Harare, gave a clear exposition of John 18. He challenged the men and applied the text to their lives! Men were challenged to lead their families, to stand up for what they believe is right in Zimbabwe. This was really encouraging to me. I heard that the women and children also meet and that they do the same material at a different venue. Wow, I was impressed with their dedication. God is working.

We drove home, once again dodging many “potholes”, which made me feel at home. Well, take courage; the potholes are much worse in Zimbabwe. And the fact that there are no road works is not a good thing. I am much more grateful for the roadworks here in South



Africa. As we went home, I looked forward to supper and then watching the UEFA Cup football game with their son Dennis who was a big Barcelona fan. Barcelona was playing Inter Milan in the UEFA Cup semi-final.

I mention this because as we were watching the game and with about 30 minutes to go, the father called everyone together for family devotions. By now most football fans would have protested. Or just freaked out! But the television was switched off. No protests, no change of attitude, not a word from their son. This big Barcelona fan knew that family devotions were more



important than football. Obeying his parents was more important than watching the final minutes of the game. I was really challenged by that. Will our children do it?

The youngest girl in the family, I think aged 10 or 11, led the devotions in reading,

singing and prayer. I was told that it was her turn. The father wrapped things up and reminded the family of a couple of things - one being their weekly memory verse. We were prayed for and then got ready for bed. I went to bed after 12 and had to get up at 3:45 am to leave at 4 am for the youth conference in Mutare. Needless to say we only left at 6am after breakfast. I would have gladly taken a bit extra sleep over breakfast... my wife Leandra knows that all too well.

After about a four hour drive we got to Biriri where the conference was held at a Christian school. Students started arriving on trucks! Soon there were about 1200 students (that was the number I was told). The evening started with awesome praise and worship - African style. Loud praises to God! I looked at the people and even though it was a youth conference I saw many young children and older people. The Church building was packed. All the Pastors sat on the stage in the front of the Church dressed in their suits. I was dressed in my jeans and "tekkies". The next day I blended in a bit better wearing my suit.

What surprised me was the respect of the students for their leaders and older people. The children were very obedient. I know that outward obedience isn't everything and that they battle with the same sins we

battle with. They also have sinful hearts, but they were obedient and respectful. Almost all of them focused on the preachers. And the sessions and the sermons weren't short either.

The mornings started at 6am and we finished in the evenings after 10pm. I remember one sermon being about an hour and a half - and it wasn't mine! From what I could understand and with the help of interpreters, expository messages were preached from the book of Joshua and applied to the youth. After my preaching I had some good discussions with the youth and their leaders and I was edified by God through them.

The people were friendly, hospitable and sincere. They love the Lord Jesus Christ and they are humble servants. I was once again reminded that the word of God is so applicable. No matter where you go, man will always be man and the word of God will always be relevant.

2 Timothy 3:16-17: *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.*

Ministry didn't stop there and God graciously gave me two more opportunities to share the gospel. Once at a shop at the airport - and I nearly missed my flight. And once too on the aeroplane... always great to speak about the Lord and Eternity when you are on a plane! Who knows if it will be their last flight? I thank God for the opportunity. God is good and faithful and worthy of praise. Thanks to the leadership and the missions committee for the opportunity. Glory to God.



GALLOWS TO GLORY

by Noel Durrheim

Freedom Day on 27 April 2010, which marked the sixteenth anniversary of the first democratic elections held in South Africa, was characterised by euphoric speeches delivered by various dignitaries. The plight of millions of people, who have been marginalised and who expressed their frustration by active participation in strikes and riots as they protested the Government's failure to deliver on election promises, was simply ignored or glossed over. One maverick spokesman did however draw attention to the escalation of violent crime and highlighted the fact that **300,000 people have been murdered in the country since 1994**. (Needless to say these remarks were not featured in the banner headlines of newspapers!) This unacceptable state of affairs has been acerbated, inter alia by the abolition of the death penalty and the flawed law enforcement and judicial systems.

The question has been asked: ***"Is there any hope for those who have committed such heinous crimes?"*** The following narrative provides a convincing answer to this question.

More than fifty years ago, Jerry Lamp*, a young adult was put on trial for the cold-blooded murder of a young man. The judge, after weighing up all the evidence, found the accused guilty of murder, without any extenuating circumstances. Jerry was sentenced to death, by hanging. He spent several months on death row awaiting execution. During this period relatives of the murder victim presented Jerry with a beautiful leather bound Bible with this inscription on the fly leaf:

* Name changed

"For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16)

Some time later a minister visited Jerry in prison and shared various portions of Scripture with him, including the following:

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

and

"... him that comes to Me, I will never, never reject" (John 6:37)

During a subsequent visit, Jerry repented of his sins and received the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour and was assured that his name had been inscribed in the Book of Life. He testified to having a deep peace of heart and stated: ***"How wonderful are the ways of God, I shall go to heaven by the way of the gallows."***



He spent the remainder of his time on death row studying the Scriptures and praying for the people to whom he had written concerning the miracle that he had experienced.

The minister visited Jerry on the day on which his execution was scheduled to take place, and found him perfectly calm. He remarked, **“I am about to receive what the law rightly demands, but with God I obtained mercy!”** He then linked arms with the minister as they walked together to the place of execution as he sang his favourite hymn:

“Trust in the Lord and don’t despair
He is a friend so true
No matter what your troubles are,
Jesus will see you through”

The minister posed a final question:

“Jerry, what must I tell young people? Is it worthwhile to choose the Lord Jesus?” He replied: **“Yes, it is worthwhile!”** He then bade the minister farewell as the executioner led him to the scaffold.

The song he was singing **“Where He leads me I will follow...”** was cut short by a loud “clang” as the trap door sprang open – propelling Jerry from the Gallows to Glory!

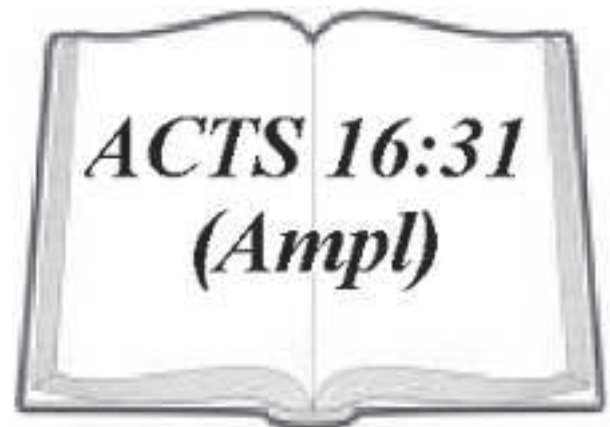
“Where sin increased and abounded, grace (God’s unmerited favour) has surpassed it and increased the more and superabounded.” (Rom 5:20 Amp)

GLORY

**Dear Reader,
DO YOU HAVE THE ASSURANCE
THAT JERRY HAD THAT YOU
WILL GO TO HEAVEN WHEN YOU DIE?**

The Bible states categorically that we can be sure of our Eternal Salvation:

“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (entrust yourself into His keeping) and you will be saved.”



***Be exalted, O God, above the
heavens; let your glory be over all the
earth.***

Psalms 57:11



WOMEN's VALUE



LADIES, LADIES, LADIES...

To all the ladies at Central Baptist

I have often wondered how firmly I would stand if I were placed in the position of either denying Christ or losing my life.

How great is my love for my Saviour and how much am I prepared to sacrifice for Him?

When Charles mentioned in one of his Revelation sermons recently of the torture some Christians are going through even in this decade, I couldn't help but wonder once again how I would respond.

These are questions I am convinced can only really be answered once one is placed in that kind of position.

In the meanwhile however, as I carry out my daily chores and live here in Pretoria in relative comfort, I can still ask the question, "how can I test the depth of my love and commitment to Jesus?"

John 14:21

"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him [her] and show myself to him [her]"

That should help clarify my question.

Taken from JC Ryle ...

"Steadily doing Christ's will and walking in Christ's ways is proof of our being true believers. Good feelings and desires are useless if they are not accompanied by action." In fact, when one continually squashes the conscience, it eventually grows hard and gradually will deaden and paralyse the heart. Living and doing well are actually the only real evidence of grace because where the Holy Spirit is, there will also be a holy life.

This on the other hand should not bring comfort to those who so religiously "keep Christ's commandments" and think that by so doing they are saved. Because "our best works are full of imperfection, when we have done all we can, we are feeble and unprofitable servants"

Eph 2:8

"By grace are we saved through faith, - not of works"

If we profess to love Christ, then let us show it by our lives. Remember Peter saying to Jesus "You know that I love you" and Jesus said "Feed my lambs". That meant "do something, be useful: follow my example" John 21:15

For those who do love the Lord and prove it by keeping His words, there are special comforts laid up.

John 14:23

"If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

Where there is holiness, there will be comfort.

Why is it that so many believers know little of 'joy and peace in believing', and go mourning and heavy-hearted towards heaven?

There is a sad answer to this question. So many believers take seriously enough Christ's practical sayings and words. There is far too much half-hearted obedience to Christ's commandments, there is far too much forgetfulness that while good work cannot justify us they still have to be taken seriously.

If we want to be happy, we must strive to be holy.

John 14:26

"But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you"

Man, have I needed the reminding of the Holy Spirit as I have been battling to retain the Bible

challenge material! I have discovered that on the other side of 40 the grey matter has become 'green matter', old and mouldy. But then only this morning did I read an article of a 94-year-old graduating with a degree in art history. She will be taking up a position in a local museum – I wondered whether that would be in the form of employment or as an arte-fact!

Jokes aside, it's just great to know that our Lord knows the ignorance and forgetfulness of our nature in spiritual things. We have been promised that when He left this world, His people would have a teacher and a 'rememberer'.

I continually find my memory of spiritual things defective and I complain that though I read and hear so many sermons, yet I seem to lose as fast as I gain.

My job then is to pray daily for His help to bring things to memory and continue reading and continue hearing. He can make dark places light and rough places smooth.

Do you desire to improve your spiritual ignorance, do you desire to understand more clearly the doctrines of the Gospel? I know that I do. The Spirit's job is to bring light to my dim spiritual eyes and brain, it is His job to guide me into all truth.

Be encouraged my fellow traveller,

- start showing your love for Jesus more today by being more obedient
- experience fulfilment, peace and joy as you take more seriously a holy life
- enjoy and take advantage of the work of the Holy Spirit in your life

With much love for the ministry here at Central

- **Carol**

***A word to all involved with our mentoring ministry :-
Don't grow weary in doing good you are sowing seeds which can affect and infect and cause Godly effects on generations to come. Please continue in this God instructed ministry. Be in touch with me if you have any questions – 083 560 8411***

A PRAYER



Remind Me God

By D.M. Whinnie

*The times when I am lonely and perhaps
I feel despair.*

*Let not my ailing heart forget that You
hear my every prayer.*

*Remind me that no matter what I do or
fail to do.*

*There still is hope for as long as I have
faith in You.*

*Let not my eyes be blinded by some folly
I commit*

*And help me to regret my wrong, and
make amends for it.*

*Inspire me to put my fears upon the
hidden shelf,*

*And in the future try not to feel sorry for
myself.*

*Give me the restful sleep I need before
another dawn.*

*And bless me in the morning with the
courage to go on.*

AMEN

INSTALLING LOVE

Tech Support: Yes, how can I help you?

Customer: I've decided to install Love. Can you guide me?

Tech Support: Yes. I can help you. Are you ready to proceed?

Customer: I'm not very technical, but I what do I do first?

Tech Support: The first step is to open your Heart. Have you located your Heart?

Customer: Yes, but there are several other programs running now.

Tech Support: What programs?

Customer: I have Past Hurt, Low Self-Esteem, Grudge and Resentment running right now.

Tech Support: No problem, Love will gradually erase Past Hurt from your current operating system. Love will eventually override Low Self-Esteem with a module of its own called High Self-Esteem. However, you have to completely turn off Grudge and Resentment. Those programs prevent Love from being properly installed. Can you turn those off?

Customer: Can you tell me how?

Tech Support: Go to your start menu and invoke Forgiveness. Do this as many times as necessary until Grudge and Resentment have been completely erased.

Customer: Okay, done! Love has started installing itself. Is that normal?

Tech Support: Yes, but remember that you have only the base program. You need to begin connecting to other Hearts in order to get the upgrades.

Customer: Oops! I have an error message already. It says, "Error - Program not run on external components." What should I do?

Tech Support: Don't worry. It means that the Love program is set up to run on Internal Hearts, but has not yet been run on your Heart. In non-technical terms, it simply means you have to Love yourself before you can Love others.

Customer: So, what should I do?

Tech Support: Pull down Self-Acceptance; then click on the following files: Forgive-Self; realize youre Worth; and acknowledge your Limitations.



Customer: Done.

Tech Support: Now, copy them to the "My Heart" directory. Also, you need to delete Verbose Self-Criticism.

Customer: Hey! My heart is filling up with new files. Smile is playing on my monitor and Peace and Contentment are copying themselves all over My Heart. Is this normal?

Tech Support: Sometimes. For others it takes awhile. So Love is installed and running. One more thing before we hang up. Love is Freeware. Be sure to give it and its various modules to everyone you meet. They will in turn share it with others and return some cool modules back to you.

Customer: Thank you.

A FATHER'S DAY POEM

Everything Dad
by J. Fuchs

*A little girl needs her daddy
To love her with manly charm,
To soothe her when she's hurt,
And keep her safe from harm.*

*A girl needs her dad
To show her a man who's good,
To help her make right choices,
As only a father could.*

*A woman needs her father
Just to be aware,
He'll always be there for her
To sustain her and to care.*

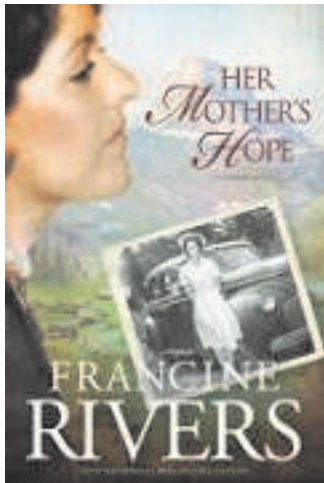
*You've been all these things, Dad.
I hope that you can see
How much I treasure you;
You mean everything to me.*

Ladies! From our favourite authors!

Two new books published in 2010 – for **Mother's Day** and a kiddies book for **Father's Day**!

Her Mother's Hope (Francine Rivers)

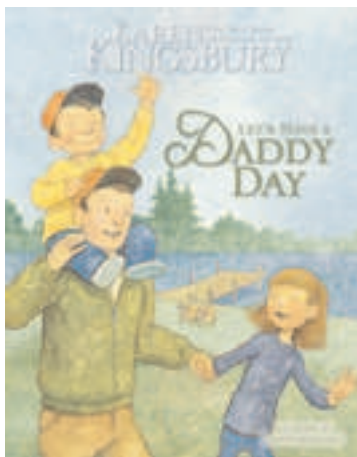
“The first part of an unforgettable epic family saga about the sacrifices every mother makes for her daughter and the very nature of unconditional love...”



Let's Have A Daddy Day (Karen Kingsbury)

*Let's go on a Daddy Day, a time for me and you.
Today while you're still little, there're so many
things to do!*

This touching tale is a story of a daddy spending time with his children. You will be delighted with this story and its beautiful pictures.



MEDICAL MATTERS - COLDS -

Most colds do not cause serious illness.

Most colds last from 3 – 7 days

A bad cold is NOT flu or influenza.

Flu is a completely different condition.

Most colds are transmitted by direct contact with a person who has a cold, especially by breathing the air that is coughed or sneezed by the infected person.

Cold viruses can live for about 2 - 5 hours out of the body, like on infected person's hands.

Some cold viruses can live on surfaces like door handles, escalator rails, or phones etc.

Touching these can transmit a cold but are less likely than direct contact.

Colds are NOT caused by cold climates, hair washing at night, or cold air etc.

Colds are only caused by a virus.

The average adult experiences a cold 2 – 3 times a year.

The average child averages 8 – 10 colds a year.

There is NO treatment for colds. Symptoms are relieved by medication but do not shorten or cure the cold.

Antibiotics are not useful for treating the common cold.

Hand washing can and does prevent the spread of infection.

WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN, especially when in contact with infected folk, or touching infected surfaces.

Infected people should wash their hands even more often to prevent infecting others

Don't just rinse your hands but use soap and wash hands for at least 30 seconds.

Keep dirty or unwashed hands away from your mouth, eyes or nose!

Having the flu injection does not protect you from the common cold.

STRENGTHENING THE SECRET GARDEN WITHIN

Extracts from www.gbcladiesofgrace.com

Every woman has a special place deep within her heart that is hers to govern alone. It is a place where she keeps those things that are the most precious to her and it is a place that needs constant care – a Woman's Secret Garden within.



It is VERY important that we deal properly with the ones near to us – whether we “like” them or not – we will have to learn to nurture and grow each and every plant that God has placed for us to tend to.

Your secret garden is made out of the following four things

Soil – Your home

Seeds – The close relationships that you have.

Water – the way you care for yourself

Sunshine – your relationship with God

It takes a healthy tending of all areas of our lives in order to strengthen the Secret Garden that lies within.

Why should we spend the energy to do these things in the first place?

Because God COMMANDS in Prov. 4:23 that we take special care of our hearts: “Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life”

SOIL

The soil is the home. There are 3 kinds of homes

The heavenly home – prepared by Jesus

The Church home

Your home – see Prov 14:1 and Prov 24:3-4

SEEDS

God has planted some special seeds in every woman's heart. The seeds represent the people near you husbands, children, parents, siblings.

will basically need 3 kinds of care:

TIME, LOVE & TENDERNESS

Nurturing the relationships that are closest to you is a Non-Negotiable in life!

WATER

We are the ones that bring water to our garden – we can pour out unto others what we have allowed to be poured into ourselves. How can a woman keep herself filled? Spend TIME with the Lord, with people you enjoy and doing things you enjoy.

Keep those plants nourished with the moisture that you have gathered as you encourage YOURSELF in your every day life.

SUNSHINE

The Sunshine is represented by the SON of God himself!

How can you find the best exposure of this SON?

Through obedience, humility, loving others, prayer, Church attendance, reading God's Word.

Exposure to the Son who is the only One who has been given to us by God to bring us light so that we can enjoy an abundant life.

ABOUT PRAYER

For the Christian, prayer is not an option but an opportunity.

In prayer, expect setbacks, but refuse retreat. R. Eastman.

Salvation: Nothing to Earn, Much to Learn. A Rogers.

Seven days without prayer makes one weak.

Don't tell the Lord how big the problem is; tell the problem how Great the Lord is!

Put God first, be happy at last.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Kerry and Byron

Tim and Anne van Stormbroek

Biblical Principles for Godly Verbal Communication

• THE POWER OF MY WORDS:

For bad:

The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. But no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison (James 3:6, 8).

With his mouth the godless man destroys his neighbor (Proverbs 11:9). The words of a gossip are like choice morsels, they go down to a man's inmost parts (Proverbs 18:8).

For good:

A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver (Proverbs 25:11).

Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones (Proverbs 16:24).

An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up (Proverbs 12:25).

The tongue of the righteous is choice silver, but the heart of the wicked is of little value. The lips of the righteous nourish many, but fools die for lack of judgment (Proverbs 10: 20, 21).

For good or evil:

Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing (Proverbs 12:18).

The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit (Proverbs 15:4).

Summary:

The tongue has the power of life and death (Proverbs 18:21).

• LISTEN BEFORE YOU SPEAK

Listen to the counsel of others:

He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise (Proverbs 15:31).

He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding (Proverbs 15:32).

Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise (Proverbs 19:20).

Stop listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge (Proverbs 19:27).

Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is a wise man's rebuke to a listening ear (Proverbs 25:12).

A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke (Proverbs 13:1).

Listen before you respond:

He who answers before listening—that is his folly and his shame (Proverbs 18:13).

Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him (Proverbs 29:20).

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry (James 1:19).

• DON'T TALK TOO MUCH

When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise (Proverbs 10:19).

A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered (Proverbs 17:27).

A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions (Proverbs 18:2).

A man of understanding holds his tongue (Proverbs 11:12).

• WEIGH YOUR WORDS: THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK

The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil (Proverbs 15:28).

Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing (Proverbs 12:18).

He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin (Proverbs 13:3).

If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight reign on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless (James 1:26).

• MAKE YOUR WORDS TIMELY AND APPROPRIATE

A man finds joy in giving an apt reply—and how good is a timely word! (Proverbs 15:23)

A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver (Proverbs 25:11).

It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel (Proverbs 20:3).

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger (Proverbs 15:1).

• DON'T TAKE TOO SERIOUSLY THE HARSH WORDS OF OTHERS

Do not pay attention to every word people say, or you may hear your servant cursing you—for you know in your heart that many times you yourself have cursed others (Ecclesiastes 7:21, 22).

• SPEAK THE TRUTH

Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies (Psalm 34:13).

A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who pours out lies will not go free (Proverbs 19:5, 9).

The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful (Proverbs 12:22).

• SAY WHAT PEOPLE NEED TO HEAR, NOT JUST WHAT THEY WANT

Kings take pleasure in honest lips; they value a man who speaks the truth (Proverbs 16:13).

Whoever flatters his neighbor is spreading a net for his feet (Proverbs 29:5).

He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue (Proverbs 28:23).

Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses (Proverbs 27:5, 6).

A truthful witness saves lives, but a false witness is deceitful (Proverbs 14:25).

Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ (Ephesians 4:15-16).

• USE WORDS THAT EDIFY

The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit (Proverbs 15:4).

Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones (Proverbs 16:24).

An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up (Proverbs 12:25).

We have been speaking in the sight of God as those in Christ; and everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening (2 Corinthians 12:19).

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 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 (Ephesians 4:29-32).

• THE SOURCE OF MY WORDS

For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks (Matthew 12:34).

But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man "unclean" (Matthew 15:18).

The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart (Luke 6:45).

• The Problem: WHAT IS THE HEART OF MAN LIKE?

Every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood (Genesis 8:21).

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? (Jeremiah 17:9)

The Solution: A HEART TRANSPLANT

Create in me a new heart, O God (Psalm 51:10).

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws (Ezekiel 36:26, 27).

• The Surgical Tool: GOD'S WORD

For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Hebrews 4:12, 13).

Once the heart is changed, the words will change:

A wise man's heart guides his mouth (Proverbs 16:23).

• REMEMBER WE MUST ACCOUNT TO GOD FOR OUR WORDS

But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken (Matthew 12:36).

So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore, let us stop passing judgment on one another (Romans 14:12).

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:10).

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

In the next edition of Life At Central, we will print part 1 of a series entitled: "Is the Church Still Serious About Hell?" By Jonny Gibson

MURRAY MATTERS IN MOGOGONG

Andrew and Ronel Murray got married in 1983. At the time they were both working in the AEB (Africa Evangelistic Band). They were sent to Pretoria to head up the national youth work and also compile a youth magazine called Youth Challenge. It was at this stage that they became members of Central Baptist Church and got involved in the EE3 programme as well as a home group. Pastor Mac took a personal interest in them during the three years they were in Pretoria. When Andrew and Ronel were approached by a small mission called Mission to African Youth to head up the work in Qwa Qwa, Pastor Mac suggested that Andrew approach Central to be sent out as missionaries of the church. This was when the support of the Murrays by Central commenced and has continued over the succeeding years.

They spent three wonderful years in Qwa Qwa doing school ministry. School assemblies were taken almost daily, after school clubs were started, camps were held at their camp site, and outreaches to other townships were undertaken. During that time they built a large meeting hall, kitchen, dormitories, etc, amongst the pine trees of this beautiful corner of Qwa Qwa on the foothills of the Malutis. Both Andy and Helen were born during that time.

It was at the end of their second year in Qwa Qwa that Andrew became ill with ulcerative colitis. His condition steadily worsened, until he was no longer able to carry on with his responsibilities there. The door was opened for them to do a discipleship training course with YWAM in Worcester. They lived in a tiny room with their two children, Andy and Helen – the latter being a small baby. During this time they had contact with Don Price who was the visionary for the Stilfontein International Training Base. He approached them to be part of the vision.

Due to delays with the start of the base, they spent a further two and a half years doing school ministry in the Free State. During this time Andrew's illness was in remission by and large. They lived on a farm, where he headed up a potato project part of the time. The project was massive in scale, though only a small part of the Christian farmer's total enterprise. The main purpose was to support other missionaries. The blessing was shared far and wide. They also led a Sotho congregation on the farm.

By the time they felt that their time on the farm had come to an end, the base in Stilfontein got off the ground, and Andrew became Training Director. YWAM was running courses for students from all over the world, but mainly from the black communities. To make it affordable, they had practical projects where students could earn part of their fees. Their third child Peter was born during this time.

Sadly Andrew's illness became acute and they finally had to leave as he had to have surgery and needed time to recover. During this operation his entire colon was removed. Following Andrew's surgery he and his family moved to Vaalharts to give him time to recover and regain his strength. Andrew later had a second major operation, which was very successful in giving him back a manageable life quality. During his time of recuperation they realised that God had a further purpose with them in this part of the Northern Cape, surrounded on three sides by densely populated former Bophuthatswana areas. Furthermore, the YWAM training base closed down soon afterwards due to issues with the mining company.

Andrew had attended a meeting to discuss the spiritual needs in farm schools around them in the Magogong area. They soon started screening the Jesus Video in the six or seven schools around them, later going to village schools in the area where they often used a generator. During this time the organisation Christian Youth Outreach was born with pastors and teachers serving on the committee. Andrew offered to co-ordinate the work which grew quickly and soon included after school clubs to teach Bible, camps, holiday programmes, and eventually they recruited unemployed Christian young people to teach Life Skills as well. Originally most of the clubs were run by Christian teachers, whom they trained at one stage through Petra College. CYO supplied teaching material for use in the clubs. When teachers started finding it difficult to run these clubs, they made use of the volunteers who were teaching Life Skills. These voluntary teams have been disbanded, mainly due to lack of financial means to give them weekly honorariums.

The future of the work depends very much on the quality of the volunteers they are able to recruit and Tswana leaders who can run with the work. This would be the greatest challenge; empowering leaders



Andrew and Ronel

who have a similar vision for school ministry, and trusting God for the ministry to become more sustainable in the Tswana communities and beyond.

Andrew networks widely with pastors from the different communities, preaching in the various churches on a regular basis. He supplies Bibles, helps with transport, and facilitates in various other ways. He is also often asked to take devotions at farmers meetings, prayer groups, at the local police station, and a variety of meetings.

About eight years ago the Murrys started a small farming project, as they believed God was leading them to look ahead to their future needs. After starting off renting a third of the small 24 hectare irrigation farm to plant pecan nut seedlings, they now have about 16 hectares under pecans, and 8 under lucern. This remains a tent-making ministry, enabling them to be partly self-supporting.

Ronel is in the JOT (Jesus our Teacher) post at the local high school, which involves counseling and heading up all Christian activities on campus. She is organist at the local NG church, and is often asked to speak at ladies' meetings, book clubs, etc. She has just completed her Masters degree in Pastoral Counseling, and would like to open a counseling practice, with special emphasis on family therapy.



Presently Andy (about to turn 23) is in full-time ministry with the church and Bible School where he did a BTh degree, accredited with SATS. This New Covenant Ministries church has a vibrant youth ministry in and around

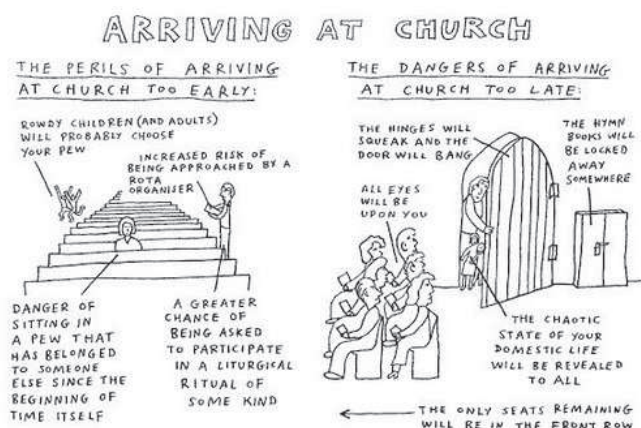
Wellington, which he helps lead. He also works in the church office 4 mornings per week, leads outreaches with the Bible School students, and sometimes lectures there. He is currently registered for a BTh Honours.

Helen (20), who did a one year course at the same College, is also employed in an administrative job at the church, and works with the leadership team of the youth and children's church ministries. She has strong organisational skills, which have been employed in God's Kingdom in numerous ways.

Peter (17) is in Grade 11 at St Andrews School for Boys in Bloemfontein, where he has been a boarder for several years. He is involved in the Bible study group on campus, Interact Club which raises funds for projects in needy communities, and is a member of the prestigious school choir. He would like to study architecture once he has completed his school career.

Psalms 119:11

**Thy  have I
hid in mine ,
that I might not
sin against thee.**



HOW TO PRAY FOR A NATION IN A TIME OF CRISIS

When a nation is in crisis we can either see what God sees for the nation, and align our hearts and thoughts with him, or we can be overwhelmed by circumstances and allow offence and cynicism to take control of our heart. We can see how God sees and have faith, or we can see evil and tragedy without discernment – and lose faith. There is no in-between place for the heart of a Christian.

The nation of South Africa has faced a very serious crisis in the last few months. A well known political figure was murdered. Though two farm workers have turned themselves in to the police for the crime, the murder is being attributed to the influence of a radical political youth leader and his racist rhetoric.

These happenings have touched a raw nerve in both the white and black communities. There is a great concern and fear that the racial divide in SA will be deepened. The old wounds of apartheid have been reopened. The pain of the Afrikaner people has been touched deeply. Everyone is aware that if the nation goes the direction of Zimbabwe, SA will be plunged into economic ruin and racial conflict. There is a fear that a civil war could take place.

How do we respond to such a crisis? Do we take sides and let the divide deepen in our own hearts? Does the Word of God have anything relevant to say about such a crisis?

The prophet Daniel in the Bible was a teenager when he was taken captive by the invading armies of Babylon. Daniel as a 16 year old was violently ripped from his family and all that was familiar to him. He was sent into exile, then forced to serve as a slave to the most brutal and wicked man on the earth. Daniel was surrounded by demonic religions, pagan idolatry, palace intrigue, and still he kept faith in God – and he became a political leader of great influence.

There is no other book in the Bible that so uniquely reveals how the destinies of nations are impacted by the choices of ordinary people. We see one man pray, and the nation changed. We read the story and watch a young man given a role of counselor to

kings. We are given insight into the throne room of God as the curtains of heaven are drawn back. We watch God judge His people, and overturn rulers and kingdoms to accomplish His secret plans.

There is just one prophetic message in the book of Daniel: *kingdoms come and kingdoms go, but God's kingdom is forever!* The message of Daniel is intended to inspire people to discern what God is up to in a nation, then align their lives with what is on His heart, with His purposes. We learn from the book of Daniel that God reigns over the affairs of nations and it is He who allows and uses rulers for His purposes. We learn we are not to panic or lose heart – God is at work.

It is important for Christians today to understand the message of Daniel: if they do not they will have only a human perspective tainted by political views and ethnic considerations. The book of Daniel is not in the Bible for us to speculate about the future, but to understand God's purposes in the present.

The two most powerful passages in the book are two prayers of Daniel. From these two prayers in chapters 2 and 9, we learn how to pray for a nation in a time of crisis. The prayers are located in chapter 2, verses 20 – 23; and chapter 9, verses 3 – 19.

How to pray in a time of crisis:

1. Focus on God's character. Acknowledge God's goodness, His greatness, and that He is ultimately in control. (Daniel 2:20 -22 and 9:4,7,9). Refuse to be more impressed with sin or evil people or wicked rulers than with God's greatness and goodness. Faith for a nation in a time of crisis comes from being impressed with God, not circumstances.

2. Thank God for what He has shown you in the past as you prayed for your nation. (Daniel 2:23 and 9:3). If you have not prayed with fasting and brokenness and humility for your nation, ask God for forgiveness.

3. Declare to God in faith that He raises up kings and presidents, and He removes kings and presidents. (Daniel 2:21). Daniel believed his own king in Jerusalem was removed, and the king of Babylon was raised up to judge the people of Israel. God brings governments down if they do not govern righteously. God uses wicked nations to bring judgement on His people.

4. Confess the sins of your nation in humility. Name the sins of the people specifically. Notice Daniel identified with the sins of his people. When he prayed, he said 'we have sinned'. (Daniel 9:3 – 6,9,13).

5. Acknowledge that the judgment of the Lord on His people are deserved because of their sins. (Daniel 9:11 -15).

6. Call upon the mercy and forgiveness of God. Daniel believed there was only one hope for the nation, and that was the mercy of God. He appealed to God to be merciful. (Daniel 9:4,9,18 - 19).

7. Pray for God's own sake, for His glory. As you pray, be more concerned for God than for people or yourself. Too often our prayers are based on what we want or what we feel; our prayers have become self-centered. (Daniel 9:18 – 19).

*With permission from: Floyd & Sally McClung
Newsletter, 12 April 2010 (www.floydandsally.org)
For more info contact: info@all-nations.co.za*

From Lauren in Central Asia

PRAYER REQUESTS

Polio - Polio has stuck out its neck in one Central Asia republic. The government, in cooperation with UNICEF, has launched a massive vaccination campaign for all children under 6. There have been 450+ cases of people with acute paralysis reported. Statistically speaking, 5-10% of these people will probably die, while another 30% will end up with mild disabilities and an additional 30% will be left serious disabilities. Please pray that we can find creative ways and form strategic partnerships with other concerned people so that we can be a blessing to these children. We are also looking specifically at helping people to understand more about Polio through written material.

Flood - In the beginning of May a flash flood struck a major city and surrounding villages in the middle of the night. Hundreds of homes were destroyed, crops were ruined and both livestock and people were washed away. There are more than 300 families now living in tents in the Stadium and other places under very difficult situations.

Grace - Grace and Grace's family are mourning the loss of her mom, who passed away suddenly in the middle of May. Her mom was like her best friend and she feels very lonely now especially as she does not have a husband.

Sharon (little girl of 9) - Has a heart disease and needs surgery - pray that it will happen soon and all the logistics needed for this to happen.

Camp for children with Diabetes - happening soon in June.

NGO workers - Daily strength, Wisdom, Grace and Love!

Passion for the unreached in southern Ecuador

OM International

Ecuador - You do not have to talk to Darren van Rensburg (28) long before discovering his drive. Darren from South Africa, a team member of OM Ecuador, will tell his story to anyone interested and shares his vision with a passion that only comes with God's calling. He has a passion for the people of southern Ecuador.



The south of Ecuador is the most unreached region in the country. Christian believers average less than two percent of the population and syncretism has long been a religious norm. The church in the region is weakened by the social prejudices and ill-conceived beliefs about evangelicals. Darren hopes to change all of that as he works alongside the church to spread God's message of hope in Christ.

'I want to see the church of southern Ecuador mobilized and equipped to reach the region and beyond', said Darren. And that is exactly what he is doing. He has been working in Saraguro, Ecuador since the medical mission campaign took place three weeks ago.

During that campaign OM Ecuador's evangelism team saw over 200 people make confessions of faith. Since then Darren, along with the local church and a team of volunteers, have been working to contact all 200 people and visit them at their homes. The local church is also starting cell-discipleship groups led by local believers to assist the new believers as they grow.

'We've had a lot of genuine professions. On the other hand some of the professions recorded did so without real understanding. Some even gave fake addresses showing us their desire not to be found', said Darren. And while this might discourage some, it does not deter Darren. 'God has given us divine appointments because through many home visits more people have heard the message and some have come to the Lord', he shared.

A recent visit by Darren, other OM team members and church members exhibited the Lord's guidance. A drop-in visit on a new believer resulted in an invitation to eat cuy, a local delicacy known to the rest of the world as guinea pig. The late lunch turned into an invitation to join the family for their Mothers Day celebration. Over cake, the team shared their faith to the extended family. Several curious men engaged the team members in a healthy dialogue over religious relativism, catholic doctrines and biblical teachings.

'It was amazing that the family invited us in and shared so much with us. It is very rare to be welcomed into a person's home here, to have that open invitation was a huge blessing', explained Darren. While no one came to Christ through the conversation, seeds were planted.

And planting seeds is exactly what he plans to continue doing. He will continue his work, with the greater goal of reaching more communities in southern Ecuador. Tabitha Moore, an OM team member who recently joined in the home visits expressed her confidence in him. 'Darren is a brilliant man with enthusiasm and direction for the ministry in southern Ecuador. Great things are going to happen.'

Credit: OM International · © 2010 OM International
Source: <http://www.om.org/da/article/r21412>

Darren van Rensburg's Newsletter

EcuaWindow

The greatest season of my life!

The week before the medical outreach we prayed for 200 salvations. Outrageous! I mean, Saraguro is known to be resistant, right? Reputed for devout identity-bound Catholicism, idolatry, witchcraft, animism, as well as unresponsiveness and even opposition to the gospel. I mean, it's been 50 years since mission work began here and the results? 2 tiny churches struggling limply against the odds. So we prayed for 200, but it seemed doubtful that people would even come to an evangelical church for treatment all 5 days of the outreach. Well, priests did tell people not to come, since these people were deceiving them into changing religion, but...



Of the more than 1000 people who came, 205 conversions were recorded! And these conversions were not revealed by raised hands in a large audience but occurred in face-to-face conversations. Many of these conversations revealed sincere, repentant hearts seeking for answers and hope. Some were brought to tears as they discovered that in Christ they had complete forgiveness of sins and assurance of eternal life. There's no doubt for me that this outreach goes down as the best that I've participated in! And so wonderful for me is that these people, the Saraguros, are the very people I have been praying daily for 3 years.



And speaking of prayer, I truly believe this was the key. The National Prayer Network of Ecuador had been praying for this outreach from all over the country. We also heard they sent a prayer team to Saraguro to intercede on site before the outreach. Along with their prayers were yours! And those from Mission Fest Mission's conference in Pretoria in February. And those from the churches in Saraguro. And those from our team members' supporting churches, as well as other friends all over the world! And wow did God respond!

Another real personal highlight emerged from a 'lowlight'. By Day 4 midday I was truly exhausted. Unsurprisingly, I came down with a fever and chest pains. So I went to the hostel to bow out and lie down, supposing there was little chance of further participation in the outreach. But while lying down feeling rather grumpy, it occurred to me that God's will was for me to continue sharing His gospel with those who would come in the afternoon and the following day. So I prayed for renewed strength, and for God to remove the fever and chest pains, and...nothing happened. Urgent to continue helping at this key time, I wandered slowly back to the church. But in the 5 minutes it took me to return, the fever left me, my chest pains became almost indiscernible and my energy returned! What a wonderful experience!

Here are some other reasons this week was so amazing:

- Gideon's International placed Bibles in strategic places all over Saraguro one week before.
- Radio Good Shepherd (Buen Pastor) played an advertisement we had made for a week and a half before the outreach – 10 times a day!
- God filled each team member with vision, excitement and energy for this historic event!

- Before getting started we visited the Sunday market as an excursion. This visit became a time of inviting everyone there to the clinic.
- We had a wonderful Medical Team from the US, who also brought us much encouragement, 200 Bibles, 200 gospels of John, and 1000 “??” tracts¹.
- A church in the US raised over \$4000 for the event, covering transport, accommodation and food.
- The people came from far and wide! 766 people saw general doctors, and the optometrists attended to 830 eyes! That is, 415 people.
- We had a wonderful spirit of unity in a team from 6 countries, and even more denominations.
- God foresaw everything we did not account for and filled in the gaps! For example, when a few of the volunteers had to return to Guayaquil early, God gave us church members to fill their places. For our gynaecologists, He supplied an old gynaecology apparatus and someone to repair it! And where I struggled beforehand to determine how we would evangelize, He truly gave us a most effective strategy for evangelising the people as they waited using testimony, a short movie called the bridge, a gospel presentation and a wonderful film tracing God's promise through Scripture called 'The Hope'.
- We had tremendous support from the church. They took the bulk of the setting up beforehand and cleaning up afterwards, made brochures and handed them out all over town, prayed hard, and are working with us everyday to follow up on those who converted.



Some big personal lessons in this week! Not the least on which has been learning to really wait on God, each time we do ministry of any kind, and as we begin our devotionals each day. Search for the word 'wait' on e-sword and it will take a looong time to read every reference. Psalm 37:3-9 is a good example.

*:3 Trust in the LORD, and do good... :4 Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. :5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and **He will act.** :6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. :7a **Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him...** :9 those who **wait** for the LORD shall inherit the land.*

And then maintain your prayer connection to God as you go about your business (1 Thes 5:17). At times this week as I really felt His prompting as to who to talk to and what to say! Yesterday I had the opportunity to preach in 2 services on repentance and personal revival from Psalm 24. The Lord truly blessed these messages and a number of people said that God had spoken to them through the messages. Though I had only been asked to preach the night before, God gave me tremendous help in preparation as I waited on Him.

Closely related to this has been a great application of faith: declaring the promises of God's Word over the circumstances. Not letting them influence our expectations of what will happen or have the final word, but believing that God will have it, despite how things might appear. Amongst many examples in Scripture we see: Noah declaring the completely unprecedented coming of rain, Abraham declaring a substitute sacrifice for Isaac, Joseph declaring the Hebrews' future return from Egypt, Moses declaring the plagues and supernatural deliverance of Israel from Egypt, Elijah

¹ Ask your nearest Evangelism Explosion member!

declaring the fire on Mount Carmel's altar, and Daniel declaring God's deliverance from the fiery furnace.

For the last week and a half, as a few team-mates and I have been accompanying the church members in follow up visits, I have seen such contrast in their level of expectation of what would happen, from great scepticism (followed by discouraging results), to conviction that God would accompany us and change lives, followed by very encouraging results including a number of additional conversions! One evening we ended up stuck in a community about 3 hours walk from



Saraguro (Cumbe), with unyielding rain discouraging any idea of returning by foot. A family allowed us to wait under their roof, and while we waited for a bakkie to take us back we ended up sharing the gospel with them. Almost the whole family (with 6 or 7 kids) prayed to receive Christ!

Please continue to pray for this time of follow up. We have found that a number who took the decision took so without real understanding, and so we have sought to clarify the gospel for them. Some then recommitted, while others showed that they still held to a works-based faith, and some even denied the decision. On the other hand, we have had some truly encouraging conversations which showed such genuine conversion. We would really like to follow up on every profession, and ideally, we would like to start new believer's cell groups in each area where a large number of people came to Christ, which the church members will later take over. On Saturday we begin our first week of one of these cell groups in a place called Yucucapa. As a side note I personally think small group interactive discipleship should be a norm for every church, since we are told by Christ not to make converts but disciples, and to teach them everything He has commanded, which I have witnessed happening effectively in such small groups.

Praise

- For all God did in the medical outreach to Saraguro, especially for so many professions of repentance and faith in Jesus Christ in a place traditionally unreceptive to the gospel!
- For more professions after the outreach!
- For the tremendous wide-spanning team-work in this outreach, including you, churches and friends all over the world, the Gideon's International, Ecuador's National Prayer Network, Good Shepherd radio, EE3, The International Bible Society, the US medical team, OMers from Guayaquil, and members of the Saraguro churches here!

Prayer

- Please pray that every single convert will be followed up on.
- Pray for complete conversions of those whose decisions were premature.
- Pray that we can launch a number of new believer's cell groups.
- Please also don't forget Santay Island, that in all the focus on Saraguro, God will continue to forge and form His church on the Island.

Try using a passage of Scripture when you are praying for your missionary, such as Ephesians 1:15-23, Colossians 1:9-14, or Ephesians 3:16-21. "Someone has said: 'Better, far better, do less work, if need be, in order that we may pray more; because work done by the rushing torrent of human energy will not save a single soul: whereas work done in vital and unbroken contact with the living God will tell for all eternity.' http://www.omf.org/omf/us/resources__1/prayer_resources/why_and_how_to_pray_for_missionaries



BETHESDA OUTREACH MINISTRIES

a ministry of
Evangelical Baptist Missions



Psalms 146: 5 – 10

"How blessed is he whose help
is the God of Jacob,
Whose hope is in the LORD
his God,
Who made heaven and earth,
The sea and all that is in
them;
Who keeps faith forever;
Who executes justice for the
oppressed;
Who gives food to the
hungry.
The LORD sets the prisoners
free.
The LORD opens the eyes of
the blind;
The LORD raises up those
who are bowed down;
The LORD loves the
righteous;
The LORD protects the
strangers;
He supports the fatherless and
the widow,
But He thwarts the way of the
wicked.
The LORD will reign forever,
Your God, O Zion, to all
generations.
Praise the LORD!

Raised to Praise

May 2010 Newsletter

From the Director

Dear Friends of Bethesda,

Have you ever had a discouraging day and yet, you claim God's promise that He is working all things for our good and His glory? For many months now, I have asked that you pray regarding the 'Proclamation of the Village.' I have attended meeting after meeting, jumping through one hoop after another, and then the city council said that there is still another one for us to jump through. Last week, I received some discouraging news that in order for Bethesda to complete the last step of the process, we must put in a cemented, curbed, and asphalt entrance to Bethesda with accelerating and decelerating lanes on both sides of Klipdrift Road by our entrance. The reason for this is because the council considers Bethesda to be a 'township.' I found out that that this might be a possibility a couple of months ago, but I was praying that in the end, it would not be requested of us.



The total cost of paving the roads will be more than R2,500,000.00 in addition to a bulk service fee which is R600,000.00. That is more than the cost of 2 childcare buildings which would house 4 families. As you can imagine, this is a huge blow to Bethesda; however, we serve a mighty and powerful God who can either change the heart of the king or provide the money that is needed to honor the request of the city council. We also know that there are individuals out there who could write a check for the entire amount. Please pray with me about this matter as together we claim the promise that God is doing something very good.

The task is unending! There are so many more orphans who have been left in this world with no one to care for them. They need to know that Jesus Christ, God's Son, loves them and died to save them. That is an everlasting hope! Please pray that we will be able to give this message of hope to many more children who need to know the love that Christ has so freely given.

Thank you for your partnership in this vital ministry!

John, for the Bethesda team



What a Blessing!

Thandiwe was brought to Bethesda in November, 2001. She was a child of a HIV positive mother who abandoned her at Jubilee Hospital when she was born. She is now 9 years old with an infectious smile. The joy of the Lord overflows through her sweet spirit and attitude of seeking to please God. The other day, I was speaking to her about school and life in general. As we talked, I asked her what it meant to be a Christian. She said so clearly, "Papa John, don't you know? A Christian is one that knows and believes in Jesus and that He died for your sins." Yes, Thandi's answer is correct – and that is the message that many more children need to know and understand.



Gifts of Love

The ladies from First Baptist Church of Danville, Indiana worked with their hands to stitch quilts for the children's rooms in the new house. The quilts are very colorful and beautiful and will brighten the rooms nicely! Thank you ladies for your labor of love!



Items Donated for the New Home

The words, 'thank you' seem hardly enough for what God has recently provided! Ruach Möller, a friend of Bethesda, is a tremendous blessing to this ministry! While being confined to bed due to a back injury, Ruach made many phone calls to companies for donations, which helped to fill the new house with beautiful and high quality furniture and appliances. Many donated and some lowered their costs tremendously! We are so thankful for the generous donations that were given by Etienne Lewis – Furniture Emporium, STAX, and Lewis Group, Ltd. - Furniture and Appliances.



THE ORGAN

IN CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH PRETORIA

Article contributed by Val Nowlan

Recently while digging around in an old scrapbook I came across the following details about the organ in Central. The author of the article is not mentioned. It was written for the dedicatory organ recital given on the 2nd December 1984 when the organ was played by Elza Roux who at that time was a church and recital organist of long standing in Pretoria.

“In the Allen ADC-7000 Computer Organ, the church has an instrument which will be able to serve at the core of its musical activities well into the 21st century.

Based on the principle of storing the wave shapes of different sounds as sets of numbers in a computer memory, the Allen has a collection of permanent stops that cover the range needed for serious organ music. In addition, computer cards holding new information can be read into the organ to define additional stops which may, according to the need of the situation, range from a penny-whistle to a double bass.

Sounds not usually found in the organ repertoire can also be introduced, giving this organ a flexibility which

would be unthinkable in a pipe organ. Yet the tonal quality of the normal stop range is deeply satisfying even to the classical musician – and will remain so for decades with a minimum of maintenance, unlike either a pipe or an electronic organ.

The organ is also well able to cope with the variable size of the sanctuary area, which can be doubled from its basic seating capacity of 550 people by the inclusion of the chapel and hall spaces. As the largest computer organ in the southern hemisphere, roughly equivalent to a 400-pipe organ, it gives a clear lead to the singing of congregations of over a thousand people.

Its configuration as a 3-manual, drawstop organ, coupled with the extensive stop list, suits it well to the requirements of the serious organ student and makes it appropriate as an examination instrument as well as helping it to serve as an inspiration to the corporate worship of the church.”



Central's fine organists include Priscilla Nothnagel and (pictured here) Connie Jubber, Adrian de Villiers and Charles Ringrose.



Lunch for Young families

by Gaby Pretorius

A time of rich and warm fellowship was held at the bring-and-share lunch for young families at the de Villiers home on the 30th May 2010. It was a great time getting to know each other better. Highlights were enjoying the special interaction between babies and toddlers and Mommies and Daddies playing not only with their children, but with other families children too. Squeals of laughter and delight were the name of the game. Other highlights were the warm fire on a cold day, delicious food and soup, looking at the new puppies, and Rudi van Jaarsveld being showered with toys by Lara-Amy and Shannon.

We would like to specially thank Andre and Ruth de Villiers for hosting the special event.

We look forward to the next one and seeing more families join us!
Please let Gaby Pretorius know if you'd like to be a host!



Young families present: Oscar, Nthembe and Keziah; Dumisani, Emilar and Tawana; Brent, Caryn, Brandon and Amy; Charles, Caroline and Rachael; Paul, Haley and Abigail; Rudi, Michelle, Lara-amy and Kelly; Quentin, Leandra and Levi; Jaco, Sulet, Quinten, Stefan and Michael



FROM A PEW TO A PULPIT FOR PATRICK

By Val Nowlan

I am sure readers of this magazine will remember the famous words of one of the cast in The A Team television series. It went something like this I love it when a plan comes together. Well that is just about what can be said about the pulpit recently installed in the new facilities of the City Baptist Church. This fledgling church had to vacate its premises a few months ago and have subsequently found an empty hall in the vicinity of Burghers Park. Empty is the important word. No furniture and no equipment and so they have had to start from scratch.

Patrick Mutombo phoned Pastor Charles to ask for help. 'Yes, we'll make a plan' Patrick was told. The plan involved John Nowlan asking Ken Paine whether he would please make a pulpit from whatever wood could be found in the plenum at Central. On investigation they found an old pew dating back to the church in Beatrix Street and Ken assured John this would be ideal for a pew. Carved into the back of the pew was the word Manse. Obviously it was reserved for the Pastor and his family in those years long ago. Ideally sacred for a pulpit!

Bob Garden was asked to organize transport of the pew to Haven Village and Ken got underway with his usual enthusiasm and energy. Within about ten days there stood a most beautifully crafted pulpit/lectern. Now Bob was again asked to organize transport from Haven Village to City Baptist Church. This happened in time for Patrick to use this carefully made piece of woodwork for the Easter week end. The whole project had come together with everyone including Koos Bronkhorst and the driver from Glenhaven doing their bit to ensure that Patrick has a pulpit in City Baptist Church.



GEMS OF SCRIPTURE BOOKLETS

If you would like to construct your own "Gems Of Scripture" booklet, please look for the printed sheets in the foyer, or contact Bev van Rensburg for details.

Football players are the only people who can dribble and still look neat.



Corinthians 7

In church one Sunday the vicar opened his Bible to read the lesson. In a loud voice he proclaimed, 'Corinthians 7!'

A keen football fan who was dozing in the front row woke up with a start and shouted, 'Who were they playing?'

DARWIN WRONG?

Three monkeys sat in a coconut tree
Discussing things as they're said to be;
Said one to the other, "Now listen you two,
There's a certain rumour that can't be true.
That man descended from our noble race,
The very idea! - it's a dire disgrace;
No monkey ever deserted his wife,
Starved her baby and ruined her life,
And you've never known a mother monk
To leave her babies with others to bunk.
And another thing! You'll never see
A monk build a fence round a coconut tree,
Forbidding all other monks a taste.
Why, if I put a fence around this tree
Starvation would force you to steal from me.
Here's another thing a monk won't do:
Go out at night and get in a stew;
Or use a gun, or club, or knife
To take some other monkey's life.
Yes, man descended, the ornery cuss,
But, brother, he didn't descend from us!

The Trillium (Ontario)

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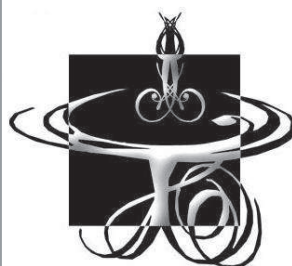
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"And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. Blessed is the man who hath such a promise as this. But we must not always estimate the fulfilment of a promise by our own eye sight. How often, my brethren, if we judge by feeble sense, may we come to the mournful conclusion of Jacob, "All these things are against me!" For though we know our interest in the promise, yet we are so tried and troubled, that sight sees the very reverse of what that promise foretells. But to the eye of faith this word is sure, and by it we perceive that our works are prospered, even when everything seems to go against us. It is not outward prosperity which the Christian most desires and values; it is soul prosperity which he longs for. We often, like Jehoshaphat, make ships to go to Tarshish for gold, but they are broken at Eziongeber; but even here there is a true prospering, for it is often for the soul's health that we would be poor, bereaved, and persecuted. Our worst things are often our best things. As there is a curse wrapped up in the wicked man's mercies, so there is a blessing concealed in the righteous man's crosses, losses, and sorrows. The trials of the saint are a divine husbandry, by which he grows and brings forth abundant fruit." -Charles Spurgeon, *Treasury of David commentary*



God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all

1 John 1:5