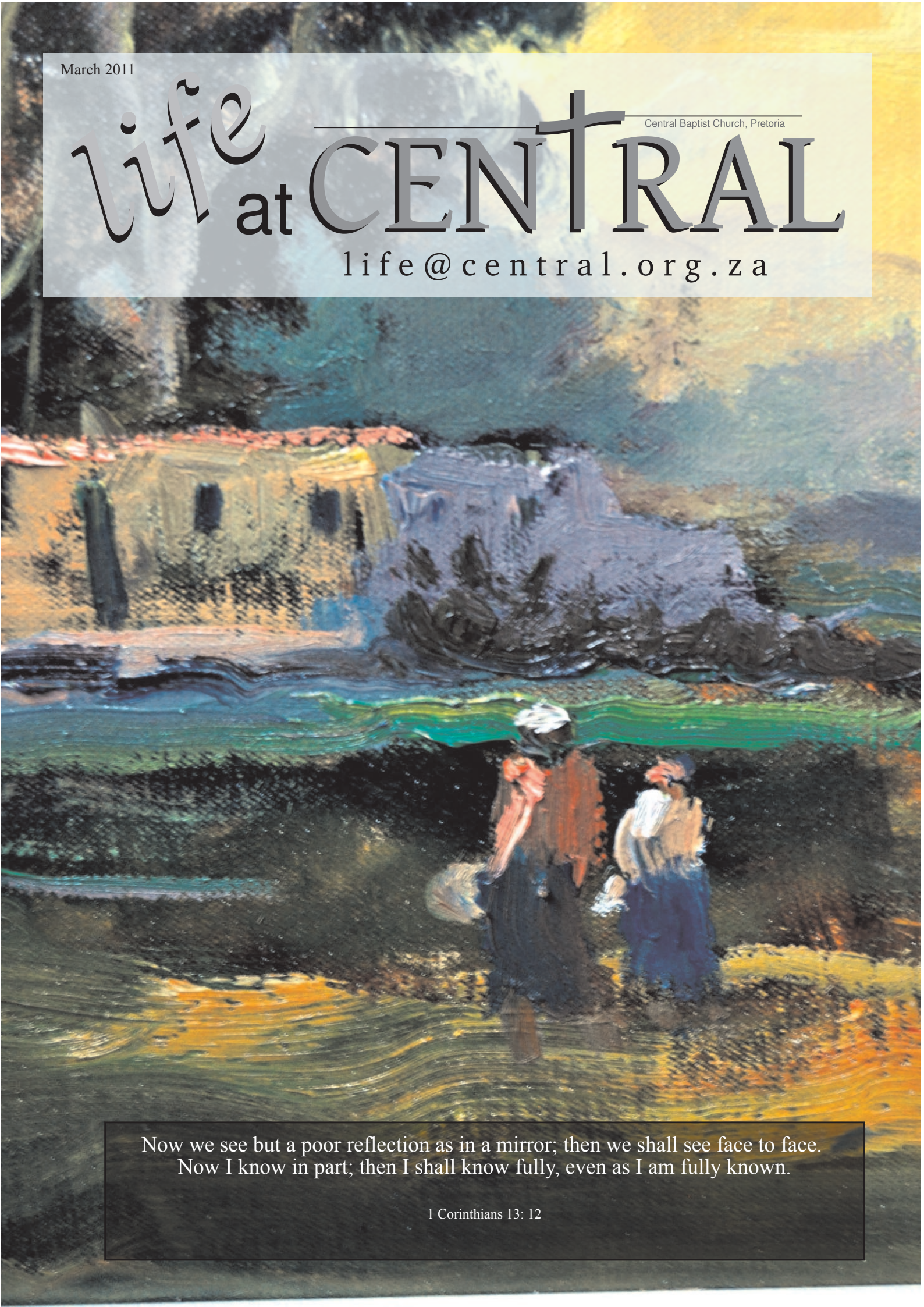


March 2011

Central Baptist Church, Pretoria

life at CENTRAL

life@central.org.za



Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face.
Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

1 Corinthians 13: 12



PASTOR'S CORNER



Senior Pastor: Charles de Kiewit

Dear friends

Another milestone was reached this month, in that the Council approved the rezoning of the new Central campus property in the east of Pretoria. This means that we can now move forward with our plans to reconstruct the building and actively plan toward starting services sometime later this year. It won't be long before the leadership present proposals to be considered by the church for the project to move forward.

Why is this important? Why are we not satisfied with staying as we are? Why do churches constantly need to be growing and multiplying? The following well known Scriptures provide the answer:

Acts 1:8: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Matthew 28:18-20: And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

2 Timothy 2:2: ...and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

The mandate is clear. The church needs to grow in width and depth. We need to be concerned about reaching out with the gospel to the world around us. We need to be discipling individuals in their

walk of faith.

And so the work must continue in Arcadia, in the City, soon out in the expanding eastern suburbs of Pretoria and to the ends of the earth.

Christ is building His church. We see then that the local church is part of a much bigger movement. We are to be faithful in serving as ultimate growth takes place and as the local church contributes to the worldwide growth of the church.

The above Scriptures also show that God is concerned about reaching the whole world. We need therefore to be cautious of making distinctions in thinking that far is better or near is better than far. The nations are on God's heart and so we to work with what I would call 'providential opportunities' near and far seeking at all times to follow the leading of God's Spirit.

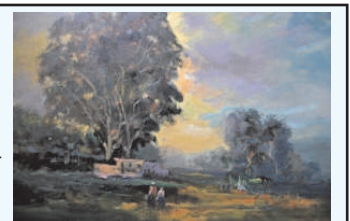
This task set before us huge. I would urge you to remember that all authority in heaven and earth has been given to Christ and He has also sent His Holy Spirit to empower the church for the task.

This is an exciting season in the life of Central. Please pray and serve with us as we seek to honour God in the continued mission of the church.

Charles

On the cover:

Detail of a painting by
Koos Bronkhorst, a
member here at Central.



LIFE at CENTRAL MAGAZINE

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

Past editions (2006 to 2010) 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, Wambui Gititu and Daniel Salzwedel

CARING MINISTRY

by Pastor Eric Robbins



SHEPHERDS AND SHEEP

God is The Shepherd and we are his sheep! The Bible explains the awesome way God cares for and nurtures his own sheep. He laid down his life for his sheep. He is a Good Shepherd! He is my shepherd and your shepherd if you know him as your saviour!

The Bible also calls Him the Chief Shepherd. As the Chief Shepherd he has chosen under-shepherds to help shepherd the sheep; and these under-shepherds are the equivalent of our present day church elders.

At Central Baptist we currently have eight elders. Three are “called” elders (the three pastors) and five are “appointed” elders (elected to office by the church membership). Please pray for these men as they seek to fulfil their heavy responsibilities of caring for the church spiritually. “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with his own blood” (Acts 20v28)

You will find from time to time that you are contacted by one of the elders requesting to come and visit or perhaps just phoning to check on your wellbeing. Please see your elder as part of the pastoral team, appointed by the Lord Jesus to care for you. Share your needs and concerns with them and if there are any special needs they will feed these back to the pastoral staff for further attention.

We have allocated the church membership to the different elders, according to surname, as follows. . .

Elder

John Nowlan:
Roy Fredrickson:
Peter Vumisa:
Eric Robbins:
Mark Kingon:
Rick Sher:

Central member

Adeyemo --> **De Graaf**
De Kiewit --> **Jamieson**
Jamison --> **Mathebula**
Matoane --> **Pedro**
Pelser --> **Sylvester**
Temple --> **Zeru**

Eric Robbins

Assistant Pastor





AT WIT'S END

by Noel Durrheim

I set out for a hike through the undergrowth of the indigenous forest, which forms the backdrop to an upmarket suburb of Lake MacQuarie, Newcastle in Australia. My ramble in the woods was accompanied by a chorus of birdsongs emanating from a large variety of birds bedecked with iridescent plumage. This harmonious atmosphere was interrupted rudely by wild screams, which increased in intensity, eclipsing all other sounds. I peered in the direction from which this cacophony had erupted, expecting to see a troop of monkeys in the forest canopy. Imagine my surprise when I discovered a flock of kookaburras vying for position at the top of a tall Eucalyptus tree. This unusual bird species,



indigenous to Australia, bears a striking resemblance to the Giant Kingfisher found in South Africa.

I left the main route and walked down a twisting path into the valley and was amazed at the great variety of Eucalyptus trees there are in the area. Over and above the familiar “Bluegum tree”, many other species, with divergent shapes, sizes, colours and foliage created an ambiance defying description. One species is very eye-catching, having a huge red hued stem that is crowned by massive branches, some of which appeared to be truncated, leaving jagged ends. This particular species of tree seems to be the favourite habitat of the cockatoo with its characteristic tuft of feathers protruding from the back of its head. As I approached, I was greeted by a loud screech uttered by a “lookout” which signaled the rest of the flock to join in lustily, until the screams rever-



berated throughout the forest. I beat a hasty retreat, realizing that I was a persona non grata in this avian community.

The footpath eventually emerged in a clearing adjacent to a busy highway. I veered off to the left in

order to avoid the early morning traffic. My progress was blocked by a swamp that I skirted linking up with a swathe of open grassland, which bisected the forest, to accommodate an electrical powerline. This brought me back, or so I thought, to the main road by which I had originally entered the forest. After walking along this road for several kilometers I eventually emerged in an unfamiliar suburb. To put it bluntly – I had lost my way and the position was acerbated by the fact that I would in all probability fail to get back in time to enjoy the special picnic breakfast which had been arranged to celebrate my birthday, at the lake.

I WAS AT MY WIT'S END!

Putting my pride in my pocket, I decided to approach residents in the area to assist me by directing me on how to reach my destination. The first two people I spoke to were unable to assist me. I then encountered two ladies, Pat and her daughter Ros, who despite the fact that they were busy preparing for Christmas celebrations, produced a map, which confirmed that I was

indeed a great distance from my intended destination. Realising my predicament, they kindly offered to transport me to my son's home by car. How relieved I was to get there before the family sent out a search party to find me!

I subsequently delivered a gift to my benefactors with a letter expressing my heartfelt appreciation to them for their generosity. I also enclosed a booklet explaining the way of salvation, with my contact details, should they require any assistance. We trust that the Lord will use even this encounter to draw souls in need, to Himself!

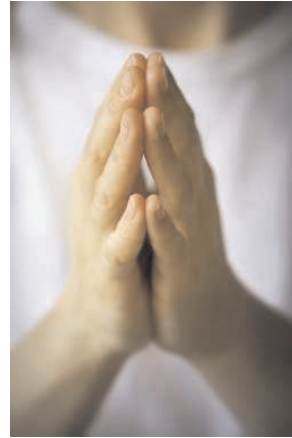
I went for my customary early-morning prayer walk in the Faerie Glen Nature Reserve the day after returning from Australia, and was enjoying the melodious sound of water cascading down a stream in the valley, after the copious showers of rain. This was accompanied by a rich variety of bird calls, which were somewhat muted when compared with their counterparts in Australia.



My reverie was interrupted rudely by the loud panting of a Border Collie, which had overtaken me. I recognised it immediately and turned around to greet its owner, Al, who is a professing Christian and a lay preacher in one of the local evangelical churches. One glance at Al's face made me realize that something was drastically wrong. We had barely exchanged greetings, before he blurted out that he had stopped praying as he regarded it as a fruitless exercise. He went on to inform me that, notwithstanding earnest prayer for the physical healing and spiritual well-being of his sister-in-law, she had died of cancer a few days ago. (To compound matters – both she and her husband, Al's brother, were avowed atheists.)

AL WAS AT HIS WIT'S END!

We found a convenient place to sit down, where Al unloaded the burden he was carrying – which included the death of four family members and his being involved in serious motor accidents during the past year. He then went on to enquire about our overseas trip. It was good to hear him laughing as I told him about my misadventure in the forest at Newcastle. I then invited



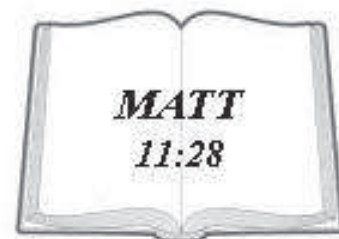
Al to join me in praying for Pat and Ros and I went on to trust the Lord for a breakthrough, not only in Al's life, but also for other members of his family. Suddenly this big man's body convulsed with sobs as tears coursed down his cheeks. I shall never forget the transformation in his facial expression as he thanked me profusely and went on his way with a new spring in his gait.

Dear Reader, have you perchance lost your way, or lost heart because of the heavy burden you are carrying?

ARE YOU AT YOUR WIT'S END?

If so, here is some good news for you. The Lord Jesus Christ invites you:

***“COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO LABOUR
AND ARE HEAVY LADEN AND
OVERBURDENED AND I WILL CAUSE YOU
TO REST. I WILL EASE AND RELIEVE YOU
AND REFRESH YOUR SOULS”***





WOMEN'S VALUE

a letter from Carol

Dear ladies

John Piper's book "When I Don't Desire God – How to Fight for Joy", has been a challenge to my own spiritual journey. If you have read the book, I'm sure you too can say the same. If you have not read it, I can recommend it to you.

There have been some practical points which have helped in my devotional life which I would like to share with you.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 says "*Pray without ceasing*". What does this verse mean? John Piper gives us 3 reasons:-

- It means that there should be a spirit of dependence that should permeate all we do. So even when we are not speaking consciously to God, there is a deep, abiding dependence on Him.
- Praying without ceasing means praying repeatedly and often. So we should pray over and over, and often. Our default mental state should be "O God, help ..."
- It also means not giving up on prayer. Never come to a point in your life where you cease to pray at all. Don't abandon the God of hope and say, "*There's no use praying*". **Luke 18:1** Jesus says to always pray and not lose heart.

"The plants of ceaseless prayer grow in the garden of persistent discipline"

And how true this is, although difficult, isn't it? A good Biblical example of this is Daniel himself. What an incredible relationship he had with God. He had this relationship because he had a disciplined regular prayer life. If we dare to hope for this kind of relationship with God, then we have to fight at developing disciplined times of prayer.

John Piper asks the question "how important is early-morning prayer?". Five reasons come from this question:-

- It signals to our conscience that this is of first importance in the day.

- Early-morning prayer strikes the first blow in the battle of the day.
- What we do daily and do early shapes the spirit of our minds and brings us into a disposition of humility and trust that will bear better fruit than anxiety or self-reliance.
- The Word will not open its best wonders to us without prayer (**Psalm 119:18**).

- Satan can use even good things to squeeze prayer out of our schedule if we miss the early-morning hour.

He also gives some helps to keep us disciplined in our prayer life. Here are just a few I would like to share with you:-

- Think creatively about the place you pray.
- Plan your method of prayer.
- Pray through the Word. Read or recite the Word and turn it into prayer as you go (eg. **Psalms 77; 99; 103:6-8; 104; 105; 106**).

Have you ever wondered how you can spend an hour in prayer when you are usually done in 5 or 10 minutes. Well this is a way you can do it ... Take a passage of Scripture, and start reading it slowly.

After each sentence, pause and go back and turn what you read into prayer. In this way you can pray as long as you can read. You may pray all day.

Well girls, I could go on and quote the whole book, but if your appetite has been whet how about getting hold of this book and diving into it yourself.

I trust that this has been of help to you as it has been to me. May you persevere in fighting for the Joy of the Lord in your life, each and every day.

Luv Carol



WOMEN'S VALUE

UPDATES...

by Lana Pelsner

The ladies' Bible study is now going through the book of JAMES, using as a guide a book by Elizabeth George: *"Growing in wisdom and faith - James"*

This is one of the "A Woman After God's Own Heart" Bible study series.

Description of the study:

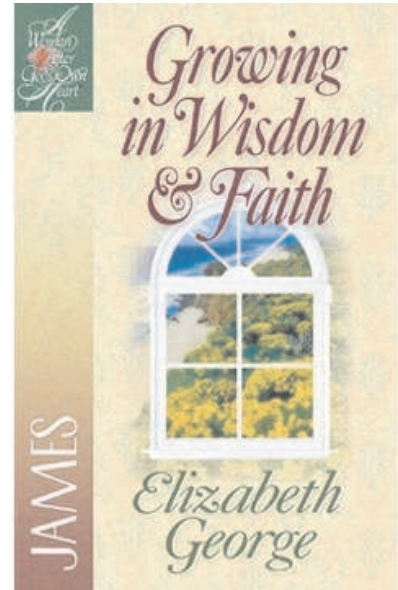
(Source: http://www.elizabethgeorge.com/george/book.asp?item_id=39)

The book of James provides very practical guidance on the most pressing life issues that affect Christian women daily. In this study, you'll learn how to:

... pray for the right things,
... persevere through life's troubles,
... put on a heart of patience, and
... plan for your future with God in mind.

This list of "Withouts" comes from Elizabeth George's book:

- Without trials there can be no **maturity**
- Without clouds there can be no **silver lining**
- Without clouds there can be no appreciation of **sunshine**
- Without rain there can be no **rainbow**
- Without rain there can be no **vegetation**
- Without the stress of the storm we can not realize the worth of an **anchor**
- Without darkness there can be no **rest**
- Without darkness we can not see the **stars**
- Without night there can be no **sunrise**
- Without threshing we can not use the **wheat**
- Without injury and irritation the oyster will not produce a **pearl**
- Without a hammer and a chisel the stone can not become a statue, a **masterpiece**
- Without crushing the flowers there can be no **perfume**
- Without trials we can not be like **Jesus**



'Never borrow from the future. If you worry about what may happen tomorrow and it doesn't happen, you have worried in vain. Even if it does happen, you have to worry twice.'



WOMEN'S VALUE

In the kitchen



For the LOVE of chocolate



DID YOU KNOW...

The health benefits of chocolate stem from the antioxidant flavonoids.

Recent studies suggest four possible health benefits of dark chocolate and cocoa:

- They may reduce the risk of a heart attack
- They may decrease blood pressure and increase insulin sensitivity
- They may improve arterial blood flow
- They may help people with chronic fatigue syndrome

Which type of chocolate has the most flavonoids?

- Natural cocoa powder
- Unsweetened baking chocolate
- Dark chocolate

One thing most chocolate bars have in common is calories!

Chocolate has a long history associated with the feeling of wellbeing!



Molten marshmallow-chocolate cakes

Makes 6 - baked in ovenproof ramekins or cups.

- * 1 1/3 cup chocolate chips
- * 1/4 cup butter
- * 1/3 cup sugar
- * 2 eggs
- * Vanilla & pinch of salt
- * 1 cup flour
- * 6 marshmallows



Over low heat stir choc chips and butter until melted. Remove from heat and stir in sugar, salt, eggs and vanilla until well blended.

Stir in flour.

Fill 6 greased cups halfway with batter and press a marshmallow in the center.

Cover with rest of batter.

Bake 180 degrees for about 15 min.

Remove from containers before serving.

From: Milk & Honey Newsletter



WOMEN'S VALUE

KNOWING YOUR PLACE

You are seated with Christ at God's right hand...
Nothing is higher than that!
God loves you with an everlasting love...
Nothing is deeper than that!
He invites you to drink from the river of His delights...
Nothing is purer than that!
He shares His heart with you in communion...
Nothing is dearer than that!
He watches over you with tender mercies...
Nothing is kinder than that!
He is with you and will never leave you...
Nothing is nearer than that!
He leads you according to the counsel of His own will...
Nothing is wiser than that!
He faithfully feeds you from His Word...
Nothing is truer than that!
He is in you and joined to your spirit...
Nothing is closer than that!

Roy Lessin

A POEM TO PONDER ON

by Georgy

*Fold two hands together
And express a dash of sorrow
Marinate it overnight
And work on it tomorrow.
Chop one grudge in tiny pieces
Add several cups of love
Dredge with a large sized smile
Mix with the ingredients above.
Dissolve the hate within you,
By doing a good deed
Cut in and help your friend
If he should be in need.
Stir in laughter, love and kindness
From the heart it has to come,
Toss with genuine forgiveness
And give your neighbour some.
The amount of people served
Will depend on you,
It can serve the whole wide world,
If you really want it to.*

W By the time the Lord made the woman, He was into His 6th day of working overtime.

An angel appeared and said "Why are you spending so much time on this one?"

The Lord answered ***"Have you seen my spec sheet on her? She has to be completely washable, not plastic, have over 200 movable parts, all replaceable, have a lap that can hold 4 children, have a kiss that can cure anything from a scraped knee to a broken heart; and she will do everything with only 2 hands!"***

O The angel was astounded at the requirements. *"Only 2 hands? No way! And that is just on the standard model? That's too much for one day. Wait until tomorrow to finish."*

"But I won't – I am so close to finishing this creation that is so close to my heart. She already heals herself when she is sick and works 18 hour days."

M The angel moved closer and touched the woman *"But you have made her so soft!"*

"She is soft," the Lord agreed, ***"but I have also made her tough. You have no idea what she can endure or accomplish."***

"Will she be able to think?" asked the angel.

"Not only will she be able to think, she will also be able to reason and negotiate."

E The angel then noticed something and touched the woman's cheek *"Oops, it looks like a leak in the model!"*

"That's not leak," the Lord corrected ***"that is a tear."***

"What is a tear for?"

The Lord said: ***"The tear is her way of expressing her joy, her sorrow, her disappointment, her love, her loneliness, her grief and her pride."***

N The angel was impressed. *"You thought of everything! The woman is truly amazing!"*

And she is! Women have strengths that amaze men. They bear hardships, carry burdens, but they also hold happiness, love and joy!



WOMEN'S VALUE

For everyone...

GOOD ADVICE

1. Pray
2. Go to bed on time, and get enough rest.
3. Get up on time so you can start the day unrushed.
4. Say no to projects that won't fit into your time schedule.
5. Delegate tasks to capable others.
6. Simplify and unclutter your life – get organized.
7. Remind yourself-you are not the general manager of the universe.
8. Allow extra time to do things and to get to places.
9. Be kind to unkind people (they probably need it the most).
10. Take one day at a time.
11. Separate worries from concerns and let go of the anxiety.
12. Live within your budget.
13. Have backups; extra keys, etc. in your wallet.
14. K.M.S. (Keep Mouth Shut). Talk less; listen more.
15. Slow down.
16. Carry a Bible with you to read while waiting in line.
17. Laugh more!
18. Eat right.
19. Develop a forgiving attitude.
20. Take your work seriously, but not yourself at all.
21. Write down thoughts and inspirations.
22. Every day, find time to be alone.
23. Having problems? Talk to God on the spot.
24. Make friends with godly people.
25. Keep a folder of favorite scriptures on hand.
26. Remember that the shortest bridge between despair and hope is often a good 'Thank you Jesus.'
27. Every night before bed, think of one thing you're grateful for that you've never been grateful for before. GOD HAS A WAY OF TURNING THINGS AROUND FOR YOU.

"If God is for us, who can be against us?"
(Romans 8:31)

Paul & Haley Miedema

Called to Serve at Tuks

by Wambui Gititu

Deitrich Bonhoeffer said, ‘Salvation is free,...but discipleship will cost you your life’. Luke 9:23 succinctly describes what it means to follow Christ- taking up the cross daily and denying self. Costly as it maybe, the rewards of discipleship far outweigh what is given up. As Micheal Card puts it in one of his songs, ‘it is hard to imagine the freedom we find from the things we leave behind’.

Paul and Haley Miedema the desire to share the gospel and disciple campus students was greater than the fears they had of moving to a foreign land. They chose to leave the US and move to South Africa in order to work with students through Campus Outreach Johannesburg Ministry. They were both sent by Christ Covenant Church in North Carolina. Paul has been attending Central since 2003 and his wife Haley since 2006.

Before they came...

Paul grew up in North Carolina where he studied Communication Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, in Charlotte. Even though he never thought of becoming a missionary he says that, “as I was disciplined in varsity, I saw God’s heart for the nations and my desire to be a part of it grew, God gave me a desire for missions and the nations”. His desire to join corporate America was replaced by a desire to serve God in Africa.

It was not different for Haley who grew up in South Carolina and studied at the same university with Paul. She graduated with a degree in Health Fitness/Sports Science and her aim was to become a Physiotherapist in the US; Africa didn’t feature in her plans. “I became a Christian in my first year in varsity and became involved in Campus Outreach as a disciple and later as a leader. I learned how to share my faith, study the Bible and pray. In my final year in varsity, I really began to pray about what God would have for me after graduation. This is when my heart was starting to really desire to influence varsity students for Christ full time and I decided to join staff in 2005. I began raising support and started working at Virginia Tech, US in 2006”.



Paul, Haley and Abby.

The idea of raising support and moving to an unfamiliar territory were some of the fears Paul and Haley contended with. Thankfully their desire to serve God outweighed their fears and in obedience to the great commission, they packed their bags and moved to SA.

Coming to South Africa

In 2002 Paul joined a team of missionaries from Campus Outreach that was coming to South Africa. He started off working at Wits and after six months, moved to Pretoria. Haley followed four years later after their wedding. “We left the US the day after our wedding for South Africa for our honeymoon and to start our life here” Haley adds.

The move to SA was interesting in that, “there are many ways that South Africa is similar to America and there are many ways they are different. Sometimes we think we are in America when we go to Menlyn for shopping or drive up to a McDonalds. However there are some clear differences, like driving on the other side of the road, seeing so much poverty on your doorstep, lots of different languages, hardly any Mexican food, and no one understands our accents!” Haley notes.

Their work at the University of Pretoria

Their mission statement is ‘Glorifying God by building labourers on the campus for the lost world’. Therefore a typical outreach on campus involves knocking on students’ doors in the residence halls and sharing the

gospel. Through evangelism and discipleship, Paul and Haley have had the opportunity to positively influence many students. Their hope is that disciplined students will be men and women of positive influence in their residence halls, campus, work place, and the world at large.

The average student at the university experiences problems such as financial difficulties, racial and cultural discrimination, tension between Christianity and cultural practices as well as lack of time. Paul and Haley say that “the gospel really addresses all these issues by the power of Jesus Christ. Through discipleship, we share our lives with students and preach the gospel into the sin and hard circumstances in their lives”.

The couple feel that “discipleship has started to grow in South Africa in the last 5 years. Many pastors and churches are starting to hold clinics and seminars that give vision and teach discipleship. It has improved, but still can improve”.

How can members of Central be involved?

Pray for the six members of Campus Outreach in Pretoria. “Pray for team unity in Pretoria, a growing connection with Central, that God would raise up first years that come to Christ and become leaders,” says Paul and Haley.

Another way that Central can be involved is through connecting with students at church and also supporting the South African staff (Sammy and Mpho Rabolele, One and Confidence Mokgatle) with finances and prayers.

Paul and Haley are also the parents of Abigail (Abby), an active 21 month old girl who according to the mum “enjoys playing outside, taking care of her baby dolls, and being ‘girlie’”.

DIGEST OF BUSINESS OF THE BAPTIST UNION MISSIONS DEPARTMENT BOARD MEETING

17 – 19 FEBRUARY 2011

The Board met from 17 – 19 February at Baptist House in Roodepoort. The Nancefield, Florida and Ridgecrest churches very kindly provided meals for the meetings.

EXCITING FIELD REPORTS RECEIVED:

ACTS 1:8 GLOBAL FOCUS CHURCHES:

This Biblical strategy for Missions i.e. going across the street and across the globe and all that is in between, with the Gospel being vigorously

promoted among our churches. Five churches have already had a Global Focus Seminar in their churches and another ten are being targeted and prepared for 2011. One church is preparing for the Global Impact Celebration in May.

ANGOLA:

Our missionaries **Lima and Maria Zamba** have moved into a more comfortable house and are very busy training church planters. They will be on home assignment in South Africa from September 2011 to February 2012.

NAMAQUALAND:

The missionaries Petrus and Marianna Vorster are busy doing follow up work in the village in which the Baptist Union Missions Department (BMD) led a short term mission, with a team of 19 people from four churches during early December.

DURBAN INNER CITY MINISTRY:

The ministry commenced by **Paul Richardson** at the beginning of January 2011. Teams from the inner city churches are being mobilised to reach the inner city.

MALAWI:

Our missionaries **Keith and Christeen** just returned to Malawi with their new baby, after a four month stay in South Africa. They have very exciting plans for continued outreach this year. The building of the school will commence this year in the Ngepani region.

OUR GOALS FOR 2011 INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

JERUSALEM:

Revival of the Association / local church mission prayer breakfasts.

The continuation of the Impact 2010 Evangelistic Thrust in and through the local Church under the leadership of the Rev. Errol Wesson, who agreed to continue this ministry as part of Local Church Alive for 2011.

JUDEA / SAMARIA:

Members of the Board leading short term cross-cultural missions in pairs of two particularly to unreached people in and around their city/town/village or even beyond.

The development of a Medical Missions Corp made up of medical personnel from our churches for the purpose of outreach especially to the rural communities both within and beyond our borders. We have received nineteen names from five churches thus far.

JERUSALEM / JUDEA / SAMARIA

The development of prison ministry on a national basis. Jonathan and Jenny Clayton (BU Prison chaplains of Hope Prison Ministry at Pollsmoor Prison) are willing to spearhead and develop this ministry. It was agreed to recommend to the March BU Executive that they be considered as missionaries of the BMD for this role.

ENDS OF THE EARTH:

The implementation of a prayer journey to an unreached peoples group led by the MD or a Board member on an annual basis.

Developing at least ten Acts 1:8 Churches in 2011 from across our constituency.

Facilitating outreach to the Chinese people in our country in conjunction with Dr. John Gordy, the IBM Cluster Strategy Leader for the Chinese Diaspora in Shanghai, together with a few others who we found have a similar burden.

To establish a closer link with the community of Baptists in the DRC. This includes assisting two new church planters - one in Kinshasa and the other in Brazzaville.

The Board was very excited about these goals and would solicit your earnest prayer and support as we continue to work with God in the extension of His Kingdom.

In the light of the above the 2011 Easter Baptist Missions Appeal is earmarked to fund the ministries listed. I trust that your church will share generously.

25% Jerusalem: Inner City, Dolm, Evangelism

25% Judea: Upington, Global Focus Acts 1:8, Chinese Outreach

25% Samaria: Evangelism, Medical Outreach

25% Ends of the Earth: Malawi, Angola, Zambia, DRC and Prayer Journey

Nelson Abraham

Friends of Stinkwater

February 2011

It is already two months into the new year but I'm still going to wish you a blessed year ahead with the hope that the ups will outweigh the downs! May you be ever aware of God's protection, guidance, love and provision.

I also convey good wishes from Suzan Thaoge (Project Coordinator) and Paulina Vilaakulu. Paulina is a faithful volunteer assisting Suzan with the project activities.

Blessed 2011!



Suzan and Paulina saying 'Happy New Yeeear'!

(Photo taken on 7 January when food was delivered)

1. Thank you

Thank you each one for your continued support in prayer, clothes and fabric donations, food and money contributions, assistance with Sunday School material and encouraging visitations to Suzan. May God bless you for your faithfulness even as you are aware of the challenges this ministry faces. Thank you also to Eberhard Braune who for many years faithfully coordinated Friends of Stinkwater (FoS), promoted the orphan ministry and provided steadfast encouragement to Suzan.

I believe that God wants his work to continue in Stinkwater – making known his love and gift of salvation. The orphans are close His heart. How many times does God not command us in his Word to care for the orphans around us! God is faithful and continually reminds me of this when hope is low and frustration is high, by channeling support from 'out-of-the-blue'. May God be glorified through the continuation of the Lethlabile Baptist Church (LBC) Orphan Care Initiative by the demonstration of His love and care to vulnerable ones, while doing so with integrity, biblical stewardship and accountability to God and his saints who are supporting this work. Please continue to pray that the issues around this project at LBC will be resolved!



Caring for orphans as Jesus commanded

2. Orphan Project meeting at LBC

As mentioned in the newsletter of November 2010, a meeting was being scheduled to discuss the improvement of accountability structures and actions required to ensure continued support for the LBC Orphan Project.

This meeting occurred on Wednesday, 8 December at LBC with Pastor David and Audrey Mothiboseng, Suzan and myself present. Praise be to God for its outcome! It was a fruitful meeting and helped to clear some communication difficulties between Pastor David and Suzan.

3. Summarised outcomes of the Project meeting

3.1 Restructuring of LBC Leadership (Reported by Ps David)



The LBC sanctuary

- New LBC leadership candidates were elected in October, inducted in November and have undergone some training.
- In November each LBC ministry/project coordinator was instructed to establish a sub-committee to guide, protect and help involved members, to improve transparency and to increase accountability to the local church.
- Suzan is responsible to set up the Orphan Project Care sub-committee.
- The new church kitchen was completed in August and final interior touches done by November. Food preparation and feeding of the orphans can be done at the church again from December 2010 onward.

3.2 Project activities and transparency (Raised by Ps David)

- He is supportive of the Orphan Project but requested more transparency from the Project Coordinator regarding all financial and food donations towards, and activities related to the project. The Orphan sub-committee should assist with this.
- He was grateful to learn via the last Friends of Stinkwater (FoS) newsletter that Suzan was receiving a stipend and money for project administration and transport costs.
- The Project Coordinator must first get his approval before additional appeals for external help and funds towards the Orphan ministry are extended, and only when the local church or BU DOLM (Baptist Union Deeds of Love Ministry) cannot assist.

3.3 Transparency and accountability requirements for continued support by FoS (Raised by Alta)

- Inadequate structures on the LBC Project side make it difficult to proof the sound stewardship of resources. A bigger scope of evidence of how the delivered foods and monies are managed and used is required.
- The lack of enough concrete evidence discourages supporters, and makes promotional and fund raising efforts difficult.
- A proposal was made to obtain records of the following:
 - Daily feeding of children
 - Number of children fed / day
 - Amount of food prepared / day
 - Adherence to agreed menu guidelines
 - Second-hand clothes distribution
- Ps David and Audrey welcomed and supported the proposal as these records will increase trust and motivate people to fund the project. Feedback reports should be available to all stakeholders/supporters. Praise God for the positive response!



3.4 Other issues (Raised by Suzan)

- Ps David is fulltime employed at Lefika Camp Site, and moderates LBC on a parttime basis. His duties at LBC include assisting the LBC Leadership with the calling a new fulltime pastor. Please pray that the call will be finalized soon.
- Because Ps David is not fulltime available at LBC, communication difficulties arise between him and the Orphan Project Coordinator, especially when emergency situations arise with the orphans. This is particularly challenging for Suzan as she, at the moment, carries the responsibilities of the orphan project alone and also perform most of the project activities herself. Please pray for Suzan for strength and encouragement! Also pray for improved communication lines between herself and Ps David!

3.5 Actions to be taken

- Pastor David committed to contact Pastor Charles de Kiewit of Central Baptist Church (CBC) in January 2011 to initiate partnership discussions. To date, no contact was made. Please continue to pray!
- Suzan must set up the Orphan Project sub-committee as soon as possible. To date, this is not yet finalized. Please pray that God will call committed, humble believers to serve on this committee!
- The sub-committee must develop and implement the management and accountability structures that will allow the collection of evidence, yet avoiding the administrative burden of micro-management.
- All donations of any kind that are delivered to Suzan must also be reported to Ps David.
- Anyone who wants to do something for the orphans eg providing school stationary, visit Suzan in her capacity as coordinator, organize a party or programme etc can discuss it with Suzan, but must also inform or get permission from Ps David, for transparency reasons. His details are 078 443 6593 or zamothisboseng@gmail.com



Young ones from a child-headed family

Please contact me with your questions and comments or if you wish to make a donation or become practically involved. In Him.

Alta Jamison (FoS coordinator)

012-807 4097
083 257 8266
alta.jamison@gmail.com

*A father to the fatherless, a defender of
widows, is God in his holy dwelling.*

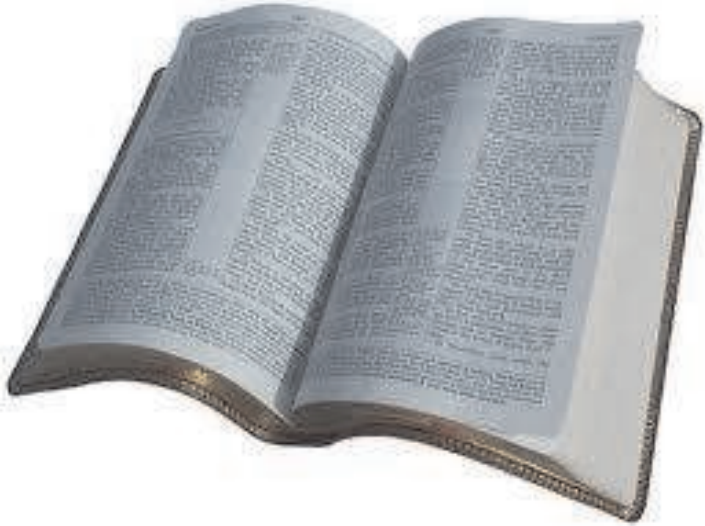
Psalm 68:5

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and
dearly loved, clothe yourselves with
compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness
and patience.*

Colossians 3:12

BIBLE CHALLENGE 2011

By Dawn Robb



Bible Challenge Examinations for 2011 will be written on 22 May 2011. Our Sunday school Departments are presently teaching the material on Luke. We would like to challenge as many adults as possible to join the Sunday school students in doing this challenge too. You can give Ryan van Rensburg a Flash disk and he will load the material on the Flash disk for you. Otherwise you can speak to Lesley Mills, and she will make a hard copy of the notes for you.

We always tell the children, that they mustn't look at it as an exam that they are writing, but to take up the challenge to hide God's word in their heart.

Last year's results were very good. Our eldest candidate was Brenda Gosling, who is in her 60's and our youngest candidate was Tshepang Moji, who was 8 years old at the time. So anybody from Grade 3 up to any age can take up this Bible Challenge.

I trust that you will be joining us this year.

God Bless.

*Dawn Robb
Sunday School Secretary*

I am a creature of a day. I am a spirit come from God,
and returning to God. I want to know one thing: the
way to heaven. God himself has condescended to
teach me the way. He has written it down in a book.
Oh, give me that book! At any price give me the book
of God. Let me be a man of one book.

John Wesley

CONTENTMENT

by Koos Bronkhorst

It has been nearly a year since I last had a battle with alcohol, not by will-power or any other human conception, but by the Grace of God Himself.

In my daily quiet time and self-analysis, the Lord has shown me that my biggest enemy is resentment. We all know the experiences of Job.

Failure to count my blessings daily, and failure to thank the Lord for those blessing, leads to resentment and self-centredness, something which I, and any other Christian for that matter, can ill afford.

With the prayers and support of my family at Central, the Lord has made me strong and grateful, while still keeping me humble, by reminding me of the mess I made when I thought I was in charge.

I know that there is much discussion amongst scholars, of all professions, as to the nature and definition of alcohol addiction. Something that I came to realize in a lifetime of living by God's Grace, is that I cannot afford to get involved in these discussions, as it interferes with my relationship with the Lord. There are however, a few points I would like to mention.

In the language of those of us who experienced addiction to alcohol, calling ourselves ALCOHOLICS, does not mean that we are slaves

to the sin of drunkenness, or suffering from a disease -- it simply means that we are conscious of the fact that we should never use alcohol, and that we are sober -- by the Grace of God ALONE.

An "alcoholic" who is sober but full of resentment, is a "dry drunk".

A person who is a self-confessed alcoholic and continues to drink, is simply a DRUNK.

I have witnessed AND experienced progression in alcoholism. Every bout of drunkenness is worse than the previous one. After 25 years of Grace, I started drinking as much as I would have if I had kept on drinking for those 25 years. Does this mean alcoholism is a disease? It doesn't really matter to me, because the discovery of a substance to "cure" alcoholism, may simply mean I can take medication and then drink alcohol "normally" again, and that is NOT what I want.

GOD'S grace has always beaten any medicine. (Sorry Eric!) Contentment, by His Grace, whatever our situation may be, will always be enough.

I thank you for allowing me to share this with you.

God Bless you all

Koos

"If you are sick, fast and pray; if the language is hard to learn, fast and pray; if the people will not hear you, fast and pray; if you have nothing to eat, fast and pray."

Frederick Franson

Would you like to join a bible study group?

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom.

LEADER	VENUE	DAY AND TIME
Conrad Barberton 083 236 4012	Queenswood Various homes	Wednesday At 19:30
Freddy Kaseke 072 449 6623	Arcadia – Church Lower Hall - 827 Schoeman Street	Wednesday At 19:00
Tino Gerstner 084 841 5798	Faerie Glen 19 The Palisades, 819 Koedoeberg Rd	Wednesday At 19:30
Pastor Eric Robbins 082 859 3251 / 012 346 4398	Muckleneuk 179 Smith Street	Monday 19:30-21:00
Trevor Peters 079 412 8242	Lynnwood Manor 93 Lindfield Road	Thursday At 19:00
Peter Hendey 082 377 8382	Garsfontein 5 Glenhaven Retirement Centre	Thursday At 19:00
Kim Gush 084 496 2242	La Montagne 24 Rotsendal, Analees Street	Thursday At 19:30
Roy Fredrickson 082 297 3735	Villieria Various homes	Every 2nd Thursday At 19:30
Eugene van Heerden 082 443 5723 / 012 343 9118	Colbyn 144 Allcock Street	Wednesday 19:00-20:30
JP Pretorius 083 384 2829	Garsfontein 6 Trevonia Mews, Harold Kitson Street	Wednesday 19:00-21:00
Peter Brolu 084 840 2704	Villieria Various homes	Thursday At 19:30
Quentin Saunders 082 883 0813	Centurion 119 Limerick Road, Bronberrik	Every 2nd Thursday At 19:00
Peter Vumisa 072 339 2193	Pretoria Central The Foundation, 129 Vermeulen St	Thursday At 18:30
Henry Zachariah 072 722 1029	Pretoria West 155 Waterbok St	Wednesday At 19:00
Young families		
Alan John 083 227 0585	Willows Various homes	Sunday afternoon Once a month
Parents of Youth		
Nigel Lowe 012 333 9077	Arcadia - Church "2's & 3's" class in the courtyard	Every 2 nd Friday at 19:00 (School terms only)
LADIES		
Carol De Kiewit 012 361 6856	Lynnwood Glen 10b Clair Road	Wednesday At 10:30
GIRLS - JUMP		
Jessica Lazenby 082 586 2267	Arcadia At the church	Friday At 17:30
YOUNG ADULTS		
Tim van Stormbroek 082 482 6202	Equestria 4 Farmstead, Farm Road	Wednesday At 19:00
Quentin Saunders - Students 082 883 0813	Arcadia At the church	Wednesday At 19:00
Warrick Jubber 082 045 2674	Onderstepoort Vet Campus	Wednesday At 19:00-21:00
Anne van Stormbroek 083 760 4009	Groenkloof 69 Wenning St	Wednesday At 18:30-20:30
CAMPUS OUTREACH		
University of Pretoria Contact Paul Miedema – 084 472 8460 or Sammie Rabolele 073 519 8691		
RETIREMENT CENTRES		
Pastor Charles 012 344 2523	Glenhaven	Tuesday 16:00 to 17:00
John Nowlan 012 361 5194 / 082 883 1877	Haven Village	Tuesday 15:30 to 16:30
Deanna Cain 083 696 3754	Rosendal	Thursday 10:30 to 11:15

FLYING OFF THE BOOKSHELF

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF BILLY GRAHAM

review by Val Nowlan



This book I found in the public library at Alkantrand. It is a monumental read – all 700+ pages. Reading it has highlighted for me some vital issues in the ministry of Billy Graham. One of these is the fact that whether to Presidents in the White House or people in the pew – wherever or whoever –

without fail, Billy Graham always challenged them about their need of salvation and their personal relationship with the Lord. He was un-ashamed about declaring the truths of the Bible.

Another point clearly stated is the fact that wherever the big crusades were held, the Billy Graham organisation carefully prepared the local committees for months in advance, to take responsibility for the affairs of the crusades. He did the preaching and others of the team attended to the music etc. The local churches however, were assigned the task of and trained for follow up of the thousands of people who streamed forward at the close of the meetings.

I was also deeply moved by Billy Graham's total commitment to the centrality of Scripture – for him (and it should be for us!) the Bible is, has been and always will be the Word of God. Even when others laughed at him for believing in and preaching the Gospel of Christ, he never wavered in His conviction.

Finally there never was any hidden agenda in the vast organisation and resultant finances. Billy Graham was never in this for the money – only ever for the declaration of the Gospel of Christ.

I found it a heart-warming story and many times compelling reading if only to put right misconceptions in my own mind.

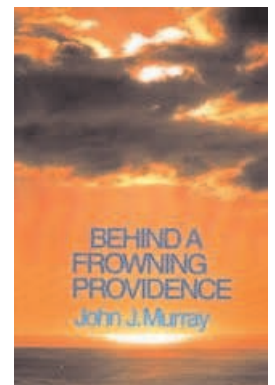
BEHIND A FROWNING PROVIDENCE

by John Murray

review by Val Nowlan

Very recently in the course of conversation someone posed the question: *Why do bad things happen to good people?* As a result I went to Augustine's bookshop to see whether I could find a suitable booklet to give the enquirer. John Murray's booklet was the find of the day for me and so I bought up several copies to pass on to others. On the back cover, the review states *Sorrow and suffering are unavoidable facts of life. But in our modern society they are so deeply feared that few of us ever think or talk seriously about them. This little booklet bears the marks of a precious stone, quarried from the deep and dark places of the author's own experience of pain and sorrow. It speaks to the mind and the heart...*

While browsing the selection of booklets on the shelves in the bookshop I also came across an attractively bound booklet on Grief by Paul David Tripp. Another by David Tripp is titled *Suffering – Eternity makes a difference*. Yet another booklet that caught my eye was titled *Chronic pain – living by faith when your body hurts*, written by Michael R. Emlet. Sonja, the lady in the bookshop, commented on the fact that in today's world of reading, people are not given to wading through hefty tomes of theology when seeking help and counsel on daily issues. Some well known theological authors, preachers and pastors have turned their hand to writing on some of these topics. These booklets are meeting a need and so it is worth a visit to this well stocked bookshop to find literature written for the people in the pew.



MORE FROM THE BOOKSHELF

WHEN HELPING HURTS: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor....and Yourself

by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert

review by Wambui Gititu

Every now and then one comes across a book that affects and gets one all charged up to make a difference. Well, for me 'When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor....and Yourself' is that book. As one reader put it, "if you have ever wondered if what you are doing is really helping, then this is a book for you" and it is indeed true. The principles of helping covered in the book can be applied at both the community and personal levels.

The authors begin by presenting the nature of poverty and the different approaches to alleviating poverty. The real life experiences presented go a long way in helping the reader understand the concepts being discussed. The second part of the book examines issues to consider when developing poverty alleviation strategies. Issues discussed in part two are then applied into economic development which looks at way of empowering people economically.

In the book, poverty is described as "the result of relationships that do not work, that are not just and that are not for life....it is the absence of shalom in all its meaning". Pre-the fall of man, God created man to exist in perfect relationship with Him, ourselves, with one another and with nature. With the fall of man, these relationships became damaged leading to poverty at the following levels, spiritual, intimacy, being, community and stewardship. In some cases poverty manifests in the lack of material things.

With regards to responding to poverty, the authors present three approaches to poverty alleviation: relief, rehabilitation and development. Relief provides immediate assistance to end suffering due to a crisis such as a natural disaster and accident. It is a temporal stop guard measure that leads to rehabilitation where the aim is to restore the one being assisted. Unfortunately in helping the poor, people provide relief and get stuck at that level instead of taking a developmental approach. Development is a more permanent approach which the authors say is, 'done with, not to'. It is an ongoing process in which both the helper and the one being helped are engaged in a transforming relationship in

which both parties glorify God. Using the wrong approach to alleviate poverty leads to helping that hurts.

To review this book would take more space than L@C has space for so let's see if I can sum up some of the thoughts though my best advice is for you to get a copy of this book. What I deduced from the book is that in order not to hurt those one is helping and oneself, there is need to adopt a humble attitude and recognise that we all suffer from one form of poverty or another. Help that is sustainable enriches both the helper and the one being helped with the latter being given an opportunity to use his or her God-given abilities to be able to provide for themselves.

You see, as presented in the book, the poor use words such as 'feelings of shame, illness and humiliation, being inferior, powerless, having no voice' to describe their condition. This was from a World Bank research conducted to find out what the poor describe as poverty. In the research, even though the poor did mention lack of material things, their definitions of poverty encompassed the socio-psychological aspect of a lack of material things. Not empowering the poor to be able to fend for themselves means one creates a dependency syndrome which reinforces the feeling of shame that the poor already have. This point is brought across through the use of real life examples of 'help gone wrong'.

In addition, the book examines how to make short term ministry experiences sustainable as well as the importance of conducting an 'asset analysis' (identifying the strengths that an individual or community might have) rather than 'needs analysis' when seeking to identify ways of working with poor communities or individuals.

This rich thought provoking book leaves one with the feeling that to bring a gospel focussed transformation with the poor involves time and requires an attitude of humility. Unlike the quick fix methods which leave the poor dependent, strategies discussed in the book transform both the helper and the one in need.

The book is available by order at CUM bookshop, Augustine Book room and Kalahari.net.

BETHESDA OUTREACH MINISTRIES

a ministry of
Evangelical Baptist Missions



*"He lifted me out of the
slimy pit, out of the mud
and mire;*

*he set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place
to stand.*

*He put a new song in my
mouth, a hymn of praise to
our God.*

*Many will see and fear the
LORD and put their trust in
him.*

*Blessed is the one who
trusts in the LORD, who
does not look to the proud,
to those who turn aside to
false gods."*

Psalm 40:2-4

Inside this issue:

Letter from John 1

New Staff 2

Contact Details:

Phone: 012 711 0087

Fax: 012 711 3472

Bethesda-temba@boi.org

Banking details:

Standard Bank, Brooklyn

Branch: 011245

Name: Temba Bethesda

Outreach

Account Number:

011818743

Raised to Praise

February 2011 Newsletter

From the Director

Dear Friends of Bethesda,

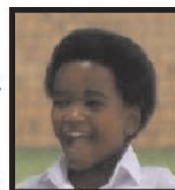
In God's sovereign plan, He allowed Bethesda Outreach Ministries to begin 10 years ago. The vision of Bethesda began so that children could be rescued from lives of ruin, families could be strengthened, and local churches could be encouraged to help with the orphan problem. We have seen God's hand working in the hearts and lives of the children who have come into the care of Bethesda.

On the 22nd of May, we will celebrate 10 years of ministry at Bethesda and we will celebrate the lives of our children whom God has graciously brought to Bethesda. "Joey," as we know her, is just one example of God's amazing grace! Here is Joey's story:



"Baby J," as she was known during her first days of life, was found in a dust-bin (garbage can) on the day of her birth. That day, the man emptying the trash heard a slight cry from the rubbish in the bin. He thought it was a kitten meowing but as he bent closer, he saw a little foot sticking out of a plastic bag. It was Joey. Joanna's mother, dying of AIDS, had allowed her newborn baby to be placed in a bag and thrown in a city trash bin in Pretoria. But God had a different plan for Joey. It was for her to live and the social workers soon found a permanent home for her at Bethesda. Joey has a bright, beautiful smile that lights up any room. She is a quiet girl, but loves to sing, dance, and praise the Lord. We look forward to what God is going to do in her life in the years to come.

Ten years ago Bethesda started and nearly 10 years ago, Joey came to live at Bethesda. She was given a home and a family and now enjoys the love of a mommy and a daddy who loves her and teaches her about the amazing work of God. Her life is just one of the lives we want to celebrate at our 10 year anniversary on the 22nd of May at Bethesda, at 15h00. Please mark your calendar so that you can attend and celebrate the amazing grace of God with us.



Our efforts feel small and hardly meet the needs around us. Time races on.....and there are still many more children who need help. Please join us as we pray that God will provide and meet the needs of more children like Joey. Please also pray that God will give wisdom for the days ahead as we look into the development and strategic planning of the ministry of Bethesda so that we can rescue more children and boldly proclaim the gospel of Christ.

For His glory,

John, for the Bethesda team



New Staff Joins Bethesda



We are so happy to have Sarah Young on our staff at Bethesda. We have been looking for an excellent social worker for a long time and God has brought us the right person for which we are very thankful! Sarah was saved while she was studying at the University of Pretoria and attends an good church in the area. She has a degree in Social Work and worked for the Department of Health and Social Development last year. She absolutely loves children and has had experience in everything from dealing with domestic problems to helping street children. Sarah said that the moment that she realized that she really wanted to work at Bethesda was during her interview. She was asked how she would deal with a particular problem but after giving the answer, Lois Mixon asked her, "how would you use the Bible for that?" It struck her that in working at Bethesda, she could actually USE the Bible and was very excited at the thought of being allowed to deal with children and parents from a biblical point of view.

Jessica Lazenby is our new Grade R (kindergarten) teacher this year. We are very excited to have her as part of our Bethesda staff! This is her first year teaching which can often present many new challenges but she is handling those very well. Whenever I ask Jessica how she is doing or if she is enjoying teaching, she says that she "loves it!" She has a Language degree in English and is currently studying for a Post Graduate Certificate in Education. She was saved while she was in high school and has been involved in ministry at her church ever since. She has worked with the youth ministry and works in a program where she ministers to children in after-school detention in one of the area high schools. The children are learning much and really enjoying their new teacher.



"Passionate," "creative," "strict," and "fun" are some of the words that best describe our new Grade 2 teacher this year. Renske de Clercq comes to our Bethesda staff with over 5 years of teaching experience. She has also taught special needs children, art for students just out of high school in the UK, and a Saturday school for under privileged children. She was saved during her second year of studying in university and has been involved in a solid church ever since. She is very creative and does wedding and other cake decorating on the side in her free time. Renske has a degree in Elementary School education and Early Childhood Development. She has a passion for teaching children and is committed to helping them not only develop their academic abilities but their spiritual and character qualities as well. We are very thankful for God directing her our way.

To donate to the needs of the ministry please visit www.bethesdaoutreach.org

HOLISTIC CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND THE "4 - 14" WINDOW

***Precis of the dynamic book :Brewster D 2010.
Future Impact: Connecting Child, Church and Mission.
Canada: Compassion***

by Bev van Rensburg

Dr Dan Brewster, of Compassion International first coined the term '4 -14 Window' in 1996 based on research by Dr. Bryant Myer. He states "God's expectation is that all children will develop as holistically as Jesus did as recorded in Luke 2:52: 'in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and man.' But many children do not have this opportunity for development in this four-fold way.(Brewster D 2010: 3) He asks how Christians should promote the holistic development of children.

Dan speaks about the term 'holistic' referring to wholeness in the context of God creating man in his image as spiritual and physical with every aspect of our lives being equally significant.

He emphasizes the importance of the 'holistic' development being perceived from a biblical and Christian perspective where we seek to understand God's view of 'personhood'. (Brewster 2010:33).

This will imply Old and New Testament consideration, and will consider nurturing the child spiritually, physically, socially, psychologically and in all other aspects, addressing present needs and looking for practical life-change towards outcomes of restoration, peace with God and people, contentment, wholeness, and confidence, recognition and fostering of potential.

Brewster, believes that a vital aspect of development, is to bring the child to a position of self-reliance or self-sufficiency- not discounting his reliance on God, but using his talents and thought

processes efficiently in life. This implies that the children, once in need, now look at their own knowledge, strength, financial or other resources to meet their own needs. This process does not reject assistance from others. He states:

*"Holistic development is certainly not **welfare**. Many societies have created extensive "welfare" programs to care for the needy and less fortunate among them. Welfare programs usually make no distinctions between the deserving and non-deserving poor. Assistance is provided simply based on a person's income or status, regardless of why that person has become needy, what destructive behaviors he or she may have engaged in or what are his or her real needs, abilities and potential. Continued giving, especially of money, aggravates the problem rather than solving it". (2010:40)*

According to Brewster, poverty has a spiritual root, not a material root.

When the mindset is changed to have a Christian ethos (Christ-centred) - not 'westernised' i.e. without cultural sensitivity and relevance (or paternalistic –dictatorial – from a pedestal of power), the problem can be addressed from the correct base. This Christian holistic development considers the desires and abilities and contribution of the children who are being helped. Even though we want children to see their potential and giftedness as

coming from the Lord, and we want the children to become more and more reliant on Him to help them realize their potential, and to be willing to receive help from mentors and those whom the Lord would bring to support, we want them to embrace who they are and to take the initiative to become 'independent'/'self-reliant'.

This 'self-reliant' person knows he or she is created in the image of God and is valuable. Self-reliant people have talents, intelligence, physical strength, creativity, much understanding of their culture and the ability to solve problems, resources e.g. land, money – able to generate income through their effort. They can have a great sense of community where they can help others, change inconsistencies and negative non-profitable practices. They can be proud of their contribution (not arrogant) and can give glory to God for His enabling. Even though they appreciate assistance, they are not dependent on outside monetary help, motivation, resources or technology for survival.

The ultimate aim in terms of character-building, is for one to become self-confident, willing to tackle challenges with enthusiasm, knowing that if they are difficult to surmount, God will help to find a way of gaining success, and one will grow in strength of character as one perseveres and implements careful thoughtful decisions.

Dan Brewster warns us as parents about ways in which we can damage the healthy development of character as described earlier, things which actually prove to be counter-productive for the development of self-esteem and healthy self-reliance. These would include giving our children everything that they want. We know that some things are detrimental. We should give them things they need, but not withhold support – there is a delicate balance.

The ideal in the home and for surrogate parents and mentors and carers, for holistic child development, would be to give children a warm, loving, caring environment, giving room to try for solutions, giving room for 'failure' and remediation for new opportunities for success. Children should be given responsibilities i.e. chores, opportunity to participate in family

activities, meet home rules e.g. bed times and meal-times i.e. co-operation for smooth running structured secure households.

Clearly, there is a certain 'interdependence' – all unselfish service and well-being of all within that environment.

How can we provide inputs to children to encourage healthy self-reliance? Dan Brewster has made some excellent suggestions to promote the process of a healthy 'self-reliance':

- * **Allow children to do what they can do themselves without intervening.**

- * When help is given, **look for a contribution from the recipients, even in time and labour** – they will appreciate it more.

- * **Focus on learning.** Children can take what they learn and use it in the future.

- * **Start where the children are** and with what they have available in and of themselves – including their own interests and major concerns.

- * **Encourage them** - positively reinforce each step that children and their parents take to meet their own needs and solve their own problems.

- * **Go at the pace of the child or his group.** Small successes are vital in order to gain the confidence to take the next steps.

- * **Know when to phase out.** Long-term projects allow nurture and inter-action with the children over time, and modelling for care-givers (in teaching and life-style, as was Jesus), but can be counter-productive if they cause dependency.

- * **Understand how people define "success" in their own context.** What activities (where helped) will they consider worthwhile?

- * **Allow them to fail.** We learn to depend upon ourselves through failure as well as success.

- * **Keep promises.** Do not attempt unsustainable projects.

* **Link people to resources:** local materials, government goods and services, low-cost supplies, counselling, expertise and advice, information, pastoral care and spiritual resources

“The direction of development is always toward wholeness. It is not enough to improve only one dimension of a person's life and leave other dimensions in inadequacy. To treat parasitic infection is noble. But if a treated child is left in an unsanitary environment with contaminated water, the intervention is incomplete. If a family's economic situation is improved but a debilitating health problem is not solved, the intervention is incomplete. If a person receives an education but social structures prevent him from getting a job, the intervention is incomplete. If a person is introduced to faith in Christ and enjoys spiritual freedom but is left in poverty and oppression, the intervention is incomplete. The scope of development is toward completeness and holism.”

It is generally accepted that the ultimate objective of any counselling is to release people to exercise responsibility for themselves. Brewster concurs with this objective for Holistic development. He expounds by saying that the bonds and restraints of poverty, ignorance and oppression are broken and people are free to take charge of their own lives, see options, and opportunities, make choices. These are therapeutic to the mind and soul. They (children and families), feel so much better about themselves. “Confidence and self-esteem rise. Defeatism dies and hope blossoms.”

Finally, the fact that Brewster addresses poverty as “a lack of wholeness”. We think of the poor lacking things like food, shelter, clean water, land and other resources. But poverty extends far beyond these physical things,

extending to emotional and spiritual lack, physical weakness, a sense of hopelessness or powerlessness, of isolation (with a lack of choices/alternatives) and just being vulnerable. They may lack ideas, knowledge and skills. Christian development workers would suggest a lack of understanding about God and the Gospel as well. Sadly, Christian aid workers are often considered as ‘suppliers of need’ almost like ‘Father Christmas’.

I believe that a huge task of the Christian fraternity, is to give new hope to the poor. There are options, they can make decisions, they can ‘get out of the rut’/pit – but only together with God, not escaping from God and reality where they often turn to substance abuse. Children who grow up ‘without options’ as did their parents, will most likely follow suit unless there are interventions. Education, is a major intervention as is shown in India, amongst the Dalits (untouchables). Many children are no longer in this ‘caste’ because of education and being channelled into intercession where there are remarkable results (see DVD. “Trash to Treasure”-NUPSA-Jerico Walls). Without sufficient education, good jobs are unobtainable. Business owners often take advantage of uneducated employees who in desperation accept employment in inhumane conditions...but will continue to work just “for the family”. The alternative is often slavery, and particularly in the sex trade. This and all the other inhuman conditions make these people lose their self-esteem. They often abandon hope, and become apathetic, or fatalistic ‘victims’ and not even ‘survivors’.

Another task of the Christian fraternity, is therefore advocacy, so that world-wide, recognition of the plight of children, especially those in crisis situations, can be made known and addressed.

Brewster D 2010. *Future Impact: Connecting Child, Church and Mission*. Canada: Compassion.

Is your child afraid of the dark?

submitted by Bev van Rensburg

L.O. Richards (1970:180-181) tells of how he addressed his son's fear of the dark.

When our son Paul was in the third grade he developed a very common and normal fear of the dark. Of course, he didn't come out and say, 'I'm afraid of the dark.' In fact, he denied the idea vigorously. But when bedtime came, it was amazing how many different excuses he could find for not going down the long dark hall to his room alone!

'Dad, will you get my pj's? I want to finish this picture.' 'Dad, I don't think my pj's are on my bed. Will you go and look?' 'Dad, come on down to my room with me. I want to show you something.' The fear was there, unadmitted, but there.

Then one evening I asked Paul into my study and suggested we write a book together. The book was to be one he could later read to his younger brother and sister to help them not to fear. I pointed out that as children grow, they often experience different kinds of fear. About three there's often a fear of loud noises. Sometimes there's a fear of other children - and fears in the Sunday School as mom or dad leaves. Our book was to help the little ones learn how to overcome their fears.

The first night we went through a concordance, looking for Bible portions where the words fear and afraid and trust occur. I read each part of a verse from the concordance and checked the ones Paul thought would be helpful for our book. The next night we looked up about half of those I checked. Paul found them in his Bible and read them off to me. I typed them on slips of paper.

When this job was finished, we had about forty verses that spoke of fear and trust, and we were ready to start the book.

We bought a composition book and some construction paper and went to work. Paul first chose the verse for the title page: 'Fear not, Abram,' God had said, 'for I am thy shield.' Paul cut out

a construction paper shield, and then a number of paper spears, which he showed striking the shield and breaking. The idea was his own, as was the insight: 'This shows God protect us.' That night he named the book and printed the title on the cover: Paul's Not Being Afraid Book.

We wrote several chapters. 'What time I am afraid, I will trust,' was one. We tried to think together of a Bible character who might have had reason to be afraid. Paul thought of Daniel, and drew several fearsome lions for illustrations. On the next page we listed times when children his age - the boys and girls he knew in school - might be afraid. His listing included fear of tornadoes, of kidnapping, and - of course - of the dark. Thinking in terms of others and understanding that fears were natural even for adults, Paul found it easier to face his own fears. And in the context of the Word it was easier for him to see that even when a believer is afraid, he is to trust in God.

We never did finish the book. But as we worked on it together over ten or so evenings, something happened in Paul. His terror of the dark gradually lessened. His calls on dad at bedtime, to go into the dark for him, diminished. And somehow his awareness that God went into the dark with him grew, until he was able to trust even in his fear.



Eksderde Central Getaway Weekend

11 - 13 March 2011

Scrapbook no. 1

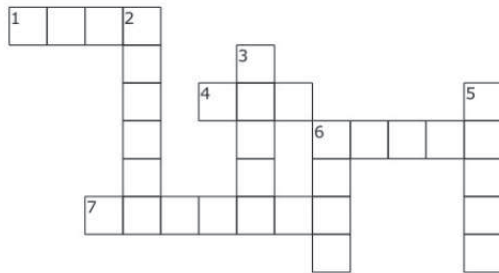
Thank you to Craig and Philip for the photos



The Thirst Quencher

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."
John 4:10 (NIV)

Based on John 4:5-13



ACROSS

1. A present; something given without cost
4. The creator of heaven and earth; our Heavenly Father
6. A clear, colorless, odorless, and tasteless liquid; H₂O
7. Continuing forever

DOWN

2. To feel the need for a drink
3. An adult female person
5. The act of taking liquid through the mouth
6. A deep hole or shaft dug or drilled to obtain water

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." John 4: 13-14



Crossword answers

WELL	WOMAN	WATER	THIRST
GIFT	DRINK	GOD	ETERNAL

HUMOUR

FLORIDA COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY

In Florida, an atheist created a case against Easter and Passover Holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days.

The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood objecting to the ruling saying, "Your honor, How can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays..."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counsel, is woefully ignorant."

The lawyer said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists."

The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fools Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that, if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day.

Court is adjourned..."

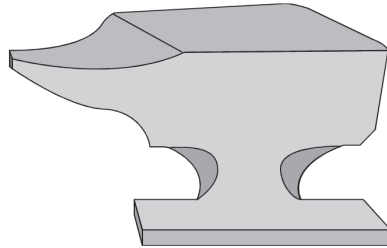
You've got to love a Judge that knows his scripture!

Eksderde Central Getaway Weekend Scrapbook no. 2



Thanks Craig and Philip for the photos

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(FOR ALL THOSE JOBS TO SMALL FOR OTHERS)

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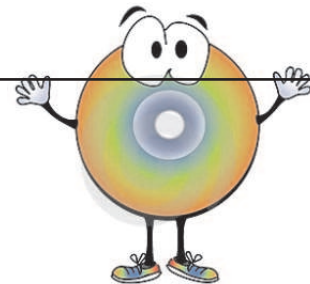
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E	D	E	N	A	M	O	W
N	D	N	U	O	R	G	N



Adam and Eve WORDSEARCH

Abel, Adam, Banned, Breath,
Cain, Creation, Eden, Garden,
Ground, Lord, Serpent, Sword,
Woman

Eksderde Central Getaway Weekend

Scrapbook no. 3



Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be dismayed: for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9