

Central Baptist Church, Pretoria

August 2013



### PASTOR'S CORNER

### by Charles de Kiewit [Senior Pastor]

### Dear Friends

Each year the mid-year school holiday break signals a change in gears as far as ministry goes. It is holiday club season. As I write this article two of these clubs are behind us, and the third is in process.

During the first week Brent George led a holiday club at Arcadia. A bumper crowd of children arrived; giving the leaders a great opportunity to spread the gospel message.

The second week at the Hill, led by Warrick Jubber, had a small number of children; but again each child being important and in need of salvation. It remains a challenge to penetrate this community largely consisting of security villages.

Ryan van Rensburg led the team to Magogong. It was an all age team with the young and not so young at work with the children. Crowds of children poured in to be part of this club conducted in Afrikaans. These clubs form part of the work CYO (Christian Youth Outreach) - the ministry that Andrew Murray leads.

Carol and I visited Andrew and the team in Magogong from the Sunday evening to Tuesday lunch time. It was a worthwhile time as we were able to support Andrew and get to know him much better, and then also spend some time with the Central team.

Looking back over the past months we passed the milestone of one year of official ministry at the Hill. We have seen some upgrading of the sanctuary at the Arcadia campus, and ministry continuing.

We do want to encourage members and adherents to be part of a home group close to their home. These groups are an enriching time of teaching, as well as fellowship.

We welcome Quentin and Leandra back from their long leave, and trust that they are refreshed. In August Eric and Ros will be away on their time of sabbatical. May our Lord strengthen and refresh them as they have this time out.

Let us all continue in the words of Paul to the Philippians 3:13-14:

...straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

#### Charles

### **CARING MINISTRY**

by Eric Robbins [Assistant Pastor]

### "DIVINE APPOINTMENTS"

### Do you keep divine appointments?

As a Christian **every appointment** we make is with the Lord in mind. This way every appointment then becomes a divine appointment – ordained by Him, planned and conducted in Him. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" Ephesians 2:10. This is a hugely challenging thought! Open your agenda for today and just think that every minute belongs to God, every business appointment, every social or family time you have scheduled. It is all God's appointment for you.

Then there are also those **special appointments with God** Himself. It is a good idea to make these times a little more deliberate by putting them into your agenda. We had a friend who used to get dressed and groomed every morning before he had his quiet time with God. No showing up in his pyjamas or dressing gown for Him! God is to be honoured and respected, he would say! The quiet time, as we call it, our church attendance and home group time are all special appointments with God. Are you faithfully keeping these divine appointments?

But there are some divine appointments that will never reach your daily agenda. I am thinking of those **unexpected opportunities arranged by God** when He brings needy people across our paths. God is wanting us to minister to them by speaking or helping in some way - but it's up to us to seize the day. How good are you at recognising and keeping these divine appointments?

The theological term for all this is **God's sovereign purpose for your life**. Isn't it great to be able to live like this! So get a life and enjoy it!

### Eric

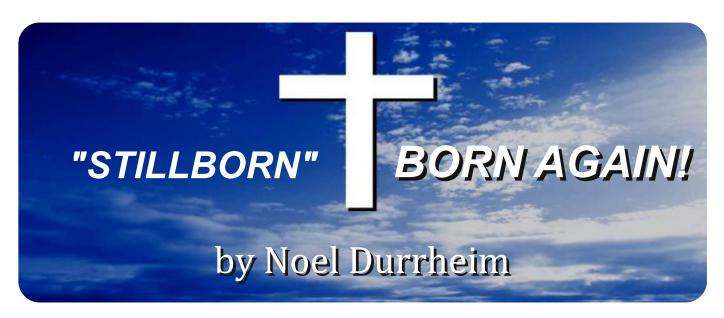
### The Life at Central Magazine

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition! Any articles or contributions for the next edition can be emailed to life@central.org.za.

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

Previous editions (2006 to 2012) are also available.

Edited by Wambui Gititu, Daniel Salzwedel and quality checked by Johan Beukman.



 ${
m T}$ he sound of the heavy downpour of rain on the corrugated iron roof, of the shebeen, in a township in the Eastern Cape of South Africa, was practically drowned by the cacophonous noise emanating from the crowd of revellers. The stale smell of home-brewed sorghum beer and an assortment of other liquors, mingled with tobacco smoke and dagga permeated the atmosphere. The shrill scream, of a heavily pregnant woman, leaning on her partner for support, rudely interrupted the Her eyes were riveted on the festivities. steadily growing puddle of liquid, surrounding her feet on the floor. Her partner shouted; "Please call an ambulance - now!" pregnant woman was rushed to the nearest hospital where she gave birth to a baby boy two months before full term. The tiny infant was placed on life-support systems in an incubator,

without even receiving a hug from its mother, who grabbed the first opportunity to bolt out of the hospital. She promptly



informed her partner, who had fathered the child, that it had been stillborn! The chance of survival of a baby under such adverse conditions is virtually nil. An, as yet, unidentified Good Samaritan removed the child from the hospital and placed it in an institution for orphans and abandoned children, in Pretoria.

It is difficult to assess the emotional, psychological and spiritual scars that are experienced by an individual who is callously rejected by his mother and left without a personal identity and family ties.

In May 2011, approximately twenty-five years after the abovementioned event, SATV featured an interview with Tim (not his real name), a South African singing celebrity, who has

performed in concerts not only in South Africa but also in Europe and Asia. I managed to track singer down and invited him to join me at a restaurant in Menlyn, Pretoria. There he shared his amazing story with me. stated that He the Children's Home, where he had been placed as a baby, was the only home he had ever known and that his fellow inmates, who hailed



from diverse backgrounds, constituted his "family". On the completion of his secondary education he attended a music academy, for voice training, prior to launching his singing career both locally and abroad.

He went on to express the deep longing he had to meet his biological parents. Years of unrelenting effort using the services, inter alia, of tracing agents and the SA Police Services eventually paid off. His graphic description of his initial encounter with his biological mother was unforgettable. She recognised him instinctively and was so shocked that she collapsed, and fell, unconscious, on the ground. The incredulity of his biological father at meeting his "stillborn" son, defies description. Notwithstanding the fact that his quest to find his parents had been successful, Tim was not accorded a cordial reception. (Both of his parents have since died.)

On expressing my admiration to Tim, for his musical achievements notwithstanding the well nigh insurmountable obstacles that he had faced, he acknowledged that his success was due primarily to God's enabling grace. This furnished me with an opportunity to pose a question to him, i.e. whether he was sure of his eternal destiny. Tim gave an affirmative reply and went on to state that his confidence was based on the fact that he was a born-again Christian. In response to my question as what he had experienced to give him this confidence, he shared a series of events which had led to this assurance. He had become romantically involved with an actress, who fell pregnant, claiming that he was the father of the son that Haunted by the trauma and insecurity that he had experienced as a child, he decided to accept parental responsibility, notwithstanding the nagging doubts which he had as to whether he was in fact the biological An unexpected phone call from a stranger asserting that he (the caller) was the child's father, served to reinforce Tim's nagging suspicions about the child's parenthood. During a heated altercation with his partner, she blurted out the admission that Tim was not the child's biological father. This admission had

a profound effect on him. In his dilemma he approached his former "house mother" at the Children's Home and confided in her. She gave him the moral support he craved for and invited him to attend Church with her. He responded to the challenge of the message that was

proclaimed by the Pastor, confessed his sinful past and put his trust in the sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was set free from all the baggage he had carried from his childhood – the hurt and bitterness were swept away by the infusion of new life:



The "stillborn" had been BORN AGAIN.

Tim went on to share how that he was vitally involved in seeking to improve the lot of the children living at the Children's Village, inter alia, by raising sponsorships for those who needed assistance, when their tenure at the Village came to an end. He was also responsible for organising a special event to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Children's Village at the end of May 2011. Past and present inmates and staff members had been invited to attend this function, which proved to be a huge success and was attended by more than 250 people.

I invite you to join me in praying that the Lord will continue to bless and use Tim as an instrument to inspire and motivate many young people to embark on a God-centred purposeful life.

### INSPIRATION FROM THE WORD

"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside.

He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun."

II Cor 5:17 LNT

For more information, please feel free to contact Noel: Tel. - 012 361 7264 Email - noelandirisd@telkomsa.net



### WOMEN'S VALUE

### King's Rubies One Day Seminar

This year's King's Rubies one day seminar was held in the month of May at the Arcadia campus. Various sessions, each facilitated by a guest speaker, were held with about 60 women attending the seminar. Our very own Warrick Jubber opened the session with a devotion from the book of Colossians.

Topics covered during the day seminar were: 'Making the Most of Your Retirement' led by Paul Iones; 'Evangelising in Rev. Community, Work Place and Daily Life' with Noel Durrheim; 'Stretching the Rand' conducted by Mrs Alice Jones; 'Godly Discipline and your Child' led by Mrs Lois Mixon; 'Living with an Unbeliever' facilitated by Mrs Dorothy Hansungule; 'Me and My Singleness' by Miss Janet Cooper; and 'You and your Adolescent' facilitated by Central's Rev. Quentin Saunders.

The most highly attended session was the one on 'Stretching the Rand'. Alice L. Jones, a Chartered Accountant with her own company, brought financial management to the level of her participants. Mrs. Jones gave the merits of having a living budget to keep tabs of income viz a viz expenditure. In addition, the idea of keeping a 'living' shopping list to guard against unnecessary purchases was found to be a wise idea, as attested by one young woman who said that "the idea of a running shopping list is one I will definitely put into practice". The speaker reminded those in attendance that God owns everything and that the participants stewards needed to count all their blessings (appraise their income) as well as the costs (know your commitments and expenses). She further challenged listeners to examine their bank statements, consume carefully and contemplate shopping habits. "I liked the idea of buying in bulk with friends and having a living shopping list where I write what gets finished so I don't just buy things" said one stay at home mom.

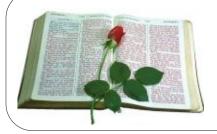
On living with unbelievers, Dorothy Hansungule shared lessons she has learnt from God about living with unbelievers. Dorothy has learnt that God brings unbelievers in the lives of believers so that believers can share the gospel and glorify God. Through relationships with nonbelievers, God sanctifies His children. "I have good non-believing friends and today's talk has made me shift my perspective, I will remember the objective is to glorify God and share the gospel with my non-believing friends" said one participant. The session on singlehood was led by Miss Cooper, a 42 year old single woman, whose spirited attitude had participants in stitches with laughter. In the session, those in attendance had the opportunity to encourage each other about making the most of one's single status. The speaker combined the discussion with an art session during which participants got to put their creative hats on.

As usual every woman went home with a goody bag which included chocolates and ingredients to do a facial at home.

by Wambui Gititu

### Life has so much to offer; we don't have to limit ourselves:

- Look beyond what irritates you and you'll find those things that empower you.
- Look beyond what frustrates you and begin to uncover what drives you.
- Look beyond what worries you and you'll discover what inspires you.



### WOMEN'S VALUE

### New Bible Study Started at 418 Coetzee Street, Garsfontein

Having led a Bible Study at Rosendal for a few years, at the beginning of this year in January, I felt a nudge from the Lord to continue another one at my home after Rosendal closed. Various ladies had suggested I do this and a morning group in the east would fill a need. After receiving the go-ahead from the Pastors, I prayed. Oh, Lord, but what should we study? Hebrews! No way, we haven't had that at Central even. Still the voice persisted, so I began to gather my resources to see how we could tackle this great book together.

At the first Bible Study seven ladies appeared all with notebooks, Bibles and eagerness for some fellowship around the Word. We decided to start at 10.30 a.m. and be out by 12 at the latest. We also agreed that we would only have tea/coffee without cake or biscuits; we all felt our waist lines suffered enough from being Baptists! Our two dogs, Bruno and Tessa, were

very enthusiastic about these lovely ladies who had come to see them, but soon settled down and slept through the study and prayer time. They are good Christian dogs!

We tackled Hebrews head on and to date, we have been blessed each week by the depth and teaching of this wonderful book. Afresh we appreciate what the New Covenant means and the price Jesus paid for our salvation and freedom. As we come to the end of Hebrews in July, we will be asking the Lord what He has in store for us next. I am sure it will be exciting, so if any of you ladies have a bit of time to spare on a Thursday morning, come and dig into the Scriptures with us. You would be most welcome!

For more information call Deanna Cain on 083 696 3754.

by Deana Cain

### Still to Come at King's Rubies

Just so you know what is in store for you at King's Rubies, here are the remaining events:

20th July @ The Hill, 12:00 p.m. Lunch at R25 per head, and for the students it will be R10 per head. Mrs Debbie Holloway will be speaking on:

When every day feels like a Black Monday - "Dealing with Depression and Anxiety"

14th September @ Arcadia, 08:30 a.m. Breakfast at R25 per head.

Mrs. Beth de Swardt will be speaking on:

Every Girl should have a Silver Lining - "Lessons on Integrity, Honesty and Commitment"

by Carol de Kiewit

- Look beyond what frightens you and you'll see what strengthens you.
- Look beyond what angers you and you'll see what teaches you.
- Look beyond what saddens you and you'll see the things that bring you joy.

Submitted by Dawn Robb

### The next innings

### for Pastor Quentin!

### by Wambui Gititu

#### Please tell us about the recent changes?

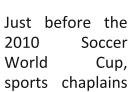
Seasons come and go and God is sovereign over it. God is also sovereign over the seasons of life that He places us in. Through much prayer and council from godly men I have decided to move on from full-time youth ministry at Central. I do still love the youth and student ministry, but I believe that God has called me to get involved in another ministry for the next season of life.

### Where will you be going?

I have decided to join the staff of Athletes in Action to do full-time sports ministry. I will mainly work with professional and semi-professional athletes in the Pretoria area. I will focus on discipling, counselling and evangelism.

### Have you always wanted to join a sports ministry?

After finishing my Bachelors in Theology in 2007 at Christ Seminary in Polokwane, I read about sports chaplaincy. I immediately thought that this is something that I would love to get involved in. Not only because I love sports, but also because I worshipped sport before I got saved! I knew that I would love to help sportsmen to see that Jesus Christ alone deserves to be worshipped. I wanted to get involved in sports ministry or chaplaincy, but fresh from Seminary, I knew that I needed ministry experience - to serve full-time in the church preaching and teaching. I needed to grow in my knowledge of God, in my gifting, and I needed to humbly serve alongside other godly men in full-time pastoral ministry. 2008 I accepted a youth pastor position at Central and have served here for five years.





came to minister to us in preparation for the World Cup outreach that Central had planned. During that time I realised more and more that this was something that I needed to pray about and explore. I started reading up more about sports chaplaincy, and gathered all the information that I could. Through the Lord's leading I was able to meet up with key people and ministry leaders involved in sports ministry.

I met with someone from Athletes in Action who was involved in full-time sports ministry, and through his help God has given me the opportunity to lead a Bible study among the soccer players from AmaTuks (they are a Premier Soccer League team from the University of Pretoria). I am also meeting with players individually and the relationships. Since then one player has joined my Life on Life discipleship group (a group of four men doing life together). I have also tried to attend some games and practice sessions in order to build relationships. I would love to devote all my time and energy to sports ministry. I am really passionate about getting involved in this ministry and to focus especially on evangelism, counselling and discipleship.

My desire is to see sportsmen come to the knowledge of our saviour Jesus Christ and grow in maturity - to be all that God wants them to be on and off the field. My desire is to see godly sportsmen, husbands, fathers and men who love Christ and His bride the church

more than they love anything else. My desire is to see sportsmen live for the greater eternal reward, to make disciples and to be used by God to impact the world. God has gifted sportsmen with the gifts they have and my desire is for them to recognise that their ability to play and excel comes from God. My desire is for them is to then glorify God with that gift, and as C. J. Mahaney says, for these athletes to "not waste their sports". My desire is to see sportsmen who love the Lord be equipped to deal with the prosperity and the trials that come their way.

I want to do my best to understand the sports culture and the unique challenges that these sportsmen face. Yet also knowing that these sportsmen battle with the same sins that everyone else battles with, and that the gospel is sufficient for them for salvation and sanctification.

#### Why Athletes in Action?

Athletes in Action has years of experience in working with professional athletes. They also have a network of relationships with coaches and professional players. Joining an already established ministry will be better for me. Although I have a desire to start my own ministry, I have also considered the council of other believers and the Elders at Central. The best will be for me to be able to start with evangelism, discipleship and counselling as soon as possible. Starting a new ministry will not allow me to devote as much time on the I also believe that the mission field. administrative support, training and support raise accountability from Athletes In Action is good, and that when starting your own ministry, one often neglects these areas. One of the main reasons for joining Athletes in Action is because I have built relationships with people from Athletes in Action, and I see their heart to make disciples of all men, including sportsmen and women.

#### Will you continue to attend Central?

In short, the answer is yes. My desire is to join Athletes in Action, but be sent from and function under the guidance and authority of the local church. I am personally accountable to the local church and will remain a member of Central. At the moment I feel that this is where God wants us as a family. I am also aware that sometimes God moves believers to other churches, but we believe staying at Central is best for us and for God's glory.

#### When do you start with Athletes in Action?

At the moment I am going through the application process with Athletes in Action, and this might only be finalised at the end of August. But I will already start raising support so that, Lord willing, I will be able to enter full-time sports ministry by the end of January 2014.

#### What have you learned in the last five years?

I don't think there is enough space to share it all! I have learned so much in the last five years about ministry and the church. With that I have also learned much about myself. I have seen some of my weaknesses and have grown in them and still need to grow, and I have also seen some of my strengths. mostly I have grown in my knowledge of God. God has proved Himself faithful. I have seen people get saved and grow in grace and there is no greater joy than that! Glory to God! Ministry has not been without its expected trials, but God has caused every single trial to work out for my good - which is Christ-likeness and His Glory. I am thankful to the Lord for placing me at Central and really enjoyed working with Pastor Charles and Pastor Eric two men whom I love and respect.

I love Jesus and the church and want to continue to use my gifts in the church and to be involved as best possible. But my focus will be on sportsmen. My desire is to see sportsmen get saved, get connected to the local church, use their gifts in the body and grow in their faith - so that they will not "waste their sports".

To God be the Glory.

Quentin



### Raised to Praise

Bethesda Outreach

June 2013

This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress..." James 1:27

- ·Primabeth's birthday July 6
- Shane's birthday July 20
- · 4mo's birthday July 23
- •Fritz's birthday July 25

- ·Pray for spiritual growth of our families and children
- Pray for the Dollar's for Dough Project
- •Pray for Lerato-the July Child of the Month

#### From the Director



Dear Friends of Bethesda,

June was a whirlwind and I can hardly believe that it is over already. June also marks the time when I add a year to my age; and that crept up too fast! Someone said that 29 years old is the perfect age -I am not so sure about that. Putting aside some of the aches and pains of someone who turned 62, I am looking forward to the year ahead and what God is going to do in my life as well as what He is doing at Bethesda.

Most of you read about the blessing of receiving the letter from the Department of Agriculture. I am still rejoicing! The letter will now enable us to proceed with the Application for the Village Proclamation and the Occupancy Certificate of the already built children's home. When we receive the Occupancy Certificate we will then be able to hire house parents and fill that house with children. It will also enable us to begin the process for the much needed classroom building for the school. We are thankful that we received it and are now able to move forward.

Thank you for praying and giving faithfully to this ministry! You are helping to make a difference in God's kingdom as we endeavor to reach one child at a time for the glory of God and make an impact in many lives for generations





Persevering for His

John P Mylor





For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should teach them to their children. -Psalm 78:5

For more information on serving at Bethesda, go to:

www.bethesdaoutreach.org

### Happy Father's Day to our DADS!

When you think of the word "Father" or "Dad," what comes to your mind? People tend to have very different ideas of what this word means or what it is supposed to mean. Thankfully, we can go to the Scriptures and find out what God says about Fathers and their role in the lives of their families. One of the primary roles that God has given to Fathers is leading their wives and families and teaching their children all that God says in His Word. We are so thankful for the Fathers that God has brought to Bethesda as they provide good leadership and excellent examples for the children that God has brought into our care.

We asked some of the children what they appreciated the most about their dads...they had some good and interesting answers!



Lis funny Jokes -Pienkle

Lle's strong -Maria

He teaches us the Word of God -Rudy

Lis bass voice -Steve

Jack Msiza with all his boys

Everythingl -Moeletsi

I like my daddy's friends Primabeth

Hear, O sons, the instruction of a father, and give attention that you may gain understanding. Proverbs 4.1

Fritz and Masello Shikwambane

Rebukes with Love - Prudence

He checks my homework - Joey

The passion he has for God and teaching the Word of God -Johannah



Jones Phago and his boys

He kills snakes Peter

He takes me shopping without the rest of the family -Lethabo

Le corrects me when I am wrong -Thandi



George Sithole with his boys

He works in the garden with them -Thembi

I Learn many things from him -Petunia



Elias Matjeni with his family

He is peaceful and a caring person -Masego

He disciplines when we do wrong things -Mike



Peter Letswalo with his family

He protects us -Gift

Le took care of uswhen Mommy was sick -Ame

# Are you single and between 24 and 35?.... Read on...

by Sonny Ragwala, Zita Hansungule & Naila Mollel

If you are a young or (not so young) single professional between 24 and 35 years, Central has a fellowship just for you. Some singles in Central have decided to make the most of their singlehood season by forming a singles fellowship with the objectives to:

- 1. Glorify God in singleness;
- 2. Invest in godliness and live in accordance to God's will;
- 3. Prepare for continuous faithfulness to God in marriage because marital responsibilities can interfere with our relationship with God; and
- 4. Glorify God in marriage.

More often than not, singles who have reached a certain age or maturity feel neglected. Those who are engaged or married have marriage counselling, the singles are more often left to fend for themselves in the frustrations of the single life. We live in communities and attend churches where marriage seems to be more valued than singleness. This creates the pressure to get married; for the singles, this pressure tends to be both external and internal. Therefore single people need to meet and encourage each other instead of wallowing in self-pity or being in constant pursuit of 'the one'.

The first meeting for the new singles fellowship was held in April 2013 at the Arcadia campus. Singles from Central and other churches gathered together in the coffee bar for an interactive teaching on



"Qualities to Look for in a Potential Marriage Partner". Pastor Charles and his wife Carol led the talk by sharing their love story. Some of the fundamental questions one ought to ask when searching for a potential mate are: is he/she a nominal Christian, is he/she actively and genuinely serving God in the church, can others in the church testify that he/she is truly committed to God, in other words do they have a good reputation (Prov 20:11).



A Christian who is sincerely serving God is one of the qualities that single believers must consider because it affects the direction of the relationship. The need for singles in the local church to "explore" was emphasized; to explore in this context simply means to take time to intentionally know believers of the opposite sex. Generally, both male and female singles are hesitant to approach the opposite sex. This is because one fears how one will be received, and whether things will work out. This kind of reasoning keeps singles from building lasting relationships with potential marriage partners and lifelong friends.

The first fellowship was a success with an attendance of about 30 singles. The second fellowship took place in June 2013 during which Warrick Jubber spoke on "Sanctification in the Season of Singleness". Warrick encouraged those in

attendance to cultivate Christ-like qualities and depend on Christ as singles. "The experience I had on Sanctification was great. My mind was renewed on how God works behind the scenes in our lives, in the little things in order to solve the bigger issue. The importance of having a giving heart as a single person was also refreshing to hear", said Joy Simalenga one of the singles in attendance.

It is hoped that the single's fellowship will give the singles a forum to find: encouragement, support and make new friends. According to Naila, one of the founders, "meeting together as singles is also a platform where Christ-like qualities of both God-



fearing and women are cultivated before entering into the marriage covenant. We are taught to embrace and celebrate our



singleness whether we are called to be singles for life or for a season". Some great men of the Bible, like Jesus, Paul and Timothy, were single men but for some reason the fact that they served without a wife is overlooked by both married and single believers. The Apostle Paul in 1 Cor 7: 25-40 demonstrates that singleness is a great opportunity for one to devote oneself completely to the Lord's affairs without worries of fulfilling their God ordained martial responsibilities continuously.

The Singles fellowship will be held monthly and all single people are welcomed and encouraged to attend and also suggest topics they would want tackled in future fellowship by emailing the suggestion to "singlesfellowship1@gmail.com".

### Some feedback from the singles fellowship:

"These events were a good opportunity for people in similar stages of life to meet and discuss shared challenges and how to meet them. The talks were relevant, helpful and challenging and I'm thankful for that"

#### - Warren Smith

"My experience in the singles fellowship: "it has been a blessing worshiping and interacting with the singles who come not only from

Central Baptist Church but from other churches as well. I have through the fellowship been blessed with



wonderful friendships with young people that are determined to glorify God and grow as followers of Christ in this season of singleness; young people who are determined NOT TO WASTE this season of life and the lessons that can be learnt from it"

#### - Zita Hansungule

"I've really enjoyed my time at singles fellowship and have learnt so much from the two sessions I've attended. The discussion on Sanctification in Singleness was an eye opener for me, i now know that there is no shame in being a single person in Christ. I'm definitely looking forward to more sessions at Singles fellowship"

- Kone Mukwevho

That's not the only singles fellowship that Central Baptist's singles are involved in; there's also a single ladies fellowship once a month. If you are wondering why a different singles fellowship; well it's simply because there are some issues that single ladies would prefer to discuss in the absence of single men, as well as build to a Christ-like sisterly bond. The single ladies challenge the single men to do the same!



### CARING FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

### by Juanette John

Every one of us have talents and gifts that can be used in God's kingdom, in conventional ways, but perhaps more often, in not-so-conventional ways. There are so many opportunities to use our Godgiven abilities, but sometimes it may be difficult to discover these opportunities for meaningful involvement.

The Helplift Network, which has been operating in Pretoria since 2009, is one initiative that provides a new and creative way for mobilising members of Christian communities. Helplift may therefore be seen as a movement that allows us to make a meaningful difference through our Godgiven talents, gifts, abilities, time and money.

The Helplift programme is internet-based (www.helplift.co.za), and material and information is freely available on its website. A call centre is also available where personal assistance is provided. A church community registers on the website, and a process is then followed by which members with different gifts and abilities register these on a secure website. People or organisations in need, after being screened, can then be referred to the member who will then assist them with their specific need.

For example, a medical doctor may decide to give two free consultations a week to specific organisations, such as children's homes, poor old age homes or pre-schools, homes for the disabled, or missionaries. The two parties are then linked in order for the specific need to be addressed. The doctor may specify the type of service that he/she is able and willing to give to ensure that the boundaries are clearly maintained. Any services that anyone may have can be offered in this way, services such as car mechanics, hairdressers, handymen, and many others.

The vision of Helplift is to spread the concept country-wide to as many churches as possible. In congregations where it has been implemented, it has contributed to a culture of caring and sharing by providing a practical tool through which the church can reach out to the community within its boundaries. It thus provides opportunities for the church to share the love of Jesus in practical ways.

For more information, please contact Freddy Kaseke or Juanette John.

### THANK YOU GOD

by Margaret Smith

Thank You for your Salvation through the Blood of Jesus Christ Thank You for dying for me, rising again and ascending into Heaven Thank You for Your Grace, Mercy, Love, Peace, Joy and Strength Thank You for Your Word which is my constant companion Thank You for a Godly upbringing by my mother Thank You for a very special husband and father Thank You for special memories, during hardship and ease Thank You for caring, loving, helpful and supportive children and spouses Thank You for the joy the 9 grandchildren bring Thank You for uplifting, helpful, supportive and prayerful friends

Thank You for supporting and helpful neighbours (specially during a

burglary)

Thank You for my animals who crave my affection

Thank You for Your daily provision of my needs

Thank You for the Amazing miracles, in impossible situations

Thank You for Your upholding Right Hand and Strong Arm

Thank You for the Comfort of the Holy Spirit

Thank You for being patient while the tears flow

Thank You for Your presence during deep sadness, desperation, fearfulness

Thank You ... me......GOD'S PLAN......Heaven

Therefore

Because GOD IS ALMIGHTY - I will have no fear

Because GOD IS FAITHFUL - one step at a time

Because GOD IS LOVING - I will rejoice and be glad

Because GOD IS JUST - I will trust in Him

Written as an expression of thankfulness towards God during the difficult time following the passing away of Margaret's husband, Cedric.

### FREEDOM CLIMB

### Lessons from the Mountain

and other assorted thoughts



Two biblical principles underpinned every step: The first shall be last and the last shall be first (or in this case the last shall make it up the mountain) and the race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong (Ecc 9:11)

God's kingdom is truly upside down. We rush to be first, to be

best, but this journey was about slow and steady, not caring where you come in. Go your own pace and don't compete, just put one foot in front of the other, stop and take in the view when you need to (it was awesome). Hope I can remember that lesson and keep applying it.

### AMAZED!

I stand amazed that I made it - I am tired enough to prove it though, that seemed to catch up with me as I arrived home (along with a sore foot - my foot was sore before I left, but didn't give me a single pain until the last long mostly downhill day). Humanly speaking I shouldn't have made the summit. The only two climbers who were older than me were both experienced mountaineers.

Thank you all for your incredible prayer and moral support in this venture. We were upheld with prayer. Thank you too for your giving, I know that this will make a real difference. I have reached and passed my initial target (I don't have the final figure yet). If you pledged support and haven't yet sent it in this would be the time to do that :-)

#### DEPENDENT ON GOD

Blessed are the poor (in spirit, in health, in energy). Blessed are the broken. After training so hard for this, then having the flu a few weeks

before I left, then cathching the vomiting and diarrhea bug that laid out 40 out of 45 of us before we even started, we were truly brought low.

We were totally dependent on God, one another and our guides (the tour company nearly cancelled when we all got sick, and the doctor said the decision

to let us on the plane to Lukla was the hardest one she had ever made). I, along with many others spent the first 24 hours in Lukla sleeping and

> vomiting. It was a good way to bond as a team!

Most of us were still sick to a greater or lesser degree for the entire hike, but instead of taking a few days off we laced up our boots and hiked. After all the people we were walking for don't have the luxury of taking time off for sickness.







**Top:** Surrounded by mountains Below: Phurba, my guardian angel

We went forward in weakness and brokenness. The first day's "easy 3 hour hike" took a grueling 5 hours.

I also had to humble myself to accept help, as a couple of times on the second and last day Purbha (my guardian angel) carried my backpack some of the

I saw the power of servanthood - I will forever be indebted to our guides, our guardian angels. I would NOT have made it without them. It seemed they anticipated every need, every stumble. They served us with joy way beyond the call of duty. They were a picture of God being an ever present help. If leadership is building people up and making them successful, then they were all true leaders.

It was about the journey, not the summiting. In Dingboche (getting there was my trek through hell that I talked about in one of my updates) it became clear that we would not be able to make it to both Kala Pattar and Everest Base Camp (EBC), due to the day lost to vomitting in Lukla. It also became clear that not everyone would be able to make it to the summit.

By this time we had had two people air-lifted out. The leadership made the decision that Kala Pattar would be the goal, not EBC, after all the Freedom Climb is about SUMMITS, not BASES. I was personally happy with that decision.

Is the bottom falling out of your world? Join Freedom Climb and let the world fall out of your bottom.

#### SURROUNDED BY BEAUTY

Mountains and blue sky

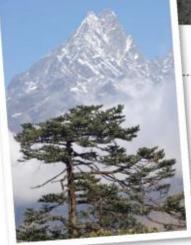
Porter - Nepali's must be some of the hardest workers in the world

Mountain path along a steep ledge



Cloud drifting by

Buddhist high place (not so beautiful)



Twenty-six women made the decision to carry on, and were cleared by the guides and doctors to go ahead. The tour company offered the others alternate routes, including Ama Dablam base camp - no mean feat. I felt God wanted me to press on to the summit and a couple of SMS messages that I got confirmed that and kept me from doubting.

#### SUMMIT DAY

The night before summiting we camped in Loubsche in the ice and snow. I have NEVER been so cold in my life. My teeth weren't chattering, they were banging and crashing together. In the intense cold my breathing got really shallow and I was struggling for breath.

They took my statistics – my pulse was racing and my oxygen levels had gone down. I crawled into my sleeping bag with a hot water bottle and gradually warmed up.

Lying awake I had a chat with God. At this point I did not think that I would be able to get up and hike in the morning - I felt that my body had come as far as it was able to. I came to peace with that, the decision was out of my hands anyway if my stats were so bad.

However, when I woke up in the morning I felt fine, my stats were back to normal so I was able to continue and complete the 12 hour hike to Kala Pattar summit and back!

From the summit we could look across at Everest and think of God who created this, the highest mountain in the world – maybe it was the last thing he did in creating the earth, sort of squeezed his fingers together and left the peak! We could also see Everest Base Camp as we trekked up the mountain – a giant windblown campsite.

We were only on the summit for a couple of minutes, the wind was so strong it became dangerous and we quickly had to descend!

I expected to have more of a sense of exhilaration at having accomplished it. But to be honest it was more of a "glad to get that over with" feeling! The sense of accomplishment came later (at the end of the whole hike, when we got back to Lulka). Later we heard that 10 traffickers were arrested in Kathmandu the day we summited! Coincidence? maybe, but then again, maybe not.



#### PRAYER AND WEATHER



I felt compelled to keep praying for the weather, we had fantastic clear skies all the way up. Every time we had to be outside the rain held back as I spoke to it in Jesus' name.

Because of the change in our schedule we had to summit later in the day – it was highly likely that Everest would be shrouded in cloud by then but it was clear!

The day after we summited we awoke to quite a few inches of snow. I was chatting to the cook who said that it would be awful if the wind started to blow - really cold (as if below freezing was not already cold enough!!). I told him I would ask God not to let the wind blow that day, he gave me a strange look, but the wind didn't blow all day (pray for our crew who saw God in our lives and determination).

We trekked 17 kms in the snow that day – I couldn't figure why God was letting it snow. But since he was, I decided that I needed to change my attitude!

That day was one of my highlights – I was trekking through the snow when I heard Yak bells and a herd of Yak and their shepherd passed me by. Amazing, who can say they have trekked in the Himalayan snows with a herd of Yak! What an awesome privilege!

The weather remained more or less closed in for the three day hike out. We felt so sorry for those we passed who were trekking up not able to see the





awesome mountains that surrounded them.

On the last day we started out in the sun, soon however, it turned to rain. I prayed like before, but it continued to rain. I couldn't understand why God was letting it rain, but reckoned He must have a good reason. We trekked almost 8 and a half hours,

#### A KEY QUESTION

Through all this a question kept returning to me - why was it so tough? Many people make it to Kala Pattar and EBC every year - not that it is easy for them, but this was far and away the toughest thing I have every done, every breath, every step a monumental effort.

The territory we were trekking in has been a stronghold of Tibetan Buddhism for centuries. Every painful step we took proclaimed Freedom in Christ and Freedom from Bondage. I now realise that symbolic acts have great power and authority in the spiritual world (I don't understand this, but have seen it to be so).

Also the cause for which we were trekking, freedom for the oppressed, for the slaves, is a cause on God's heart – and also on our enemy's heart as he loves to oppress people. People, not Everest, are the pinnacle of God's creation. We were doing this for people.

We will not win every battle, only 24 of the 45 summited, but it was about the journey and freedom is a journey, so everyone succeeded. Maybe this Freedom Climb was a bit of a wake up call as to the intensity of the battle we have joined.

In closing, I have shared the struggles here – it was tough, but it was also an awesome privilege. Nepal: what a beautiful country; what wonderful people. The Himalayas: majestic mountains – I don't think I will ever be impressed by another mountain! Nepal has spoilt me for the rest of the world!!!

Rosemary Hack

Wannabe mountaineer, who pledges to stay below the tree line in future!

over half of that in the pouring rain. My waterproof trousers leaked after about two hours!

It wasn't until I was back in Kathmandu chatting to one of the guides that I learnt that the rain and snow had cleared up the weather and enabled us to get on the flight out of Lukla, if it weren't for that we may have been stuck there for days. (The flights in and out of Lukla don't fly on instruments – it is the world's shortest, scariest and most dangerous runway – if the weather is not good they don't go).

A special thanks to Crystal Young for faithfully sending out prayer updates!

### Special thanks to God for:

NO MUSCLE PAIN



All that training must have paid off!

DZOPZAS



A cross between a yak and cow, they carried our gear.

#### NO ALTITUDE SICKNESS



I continually had painful heartburn, but don't think that

was due to the altitude.

#### GOOD WARM GEAR



As Believers do we trust in the "gear" that God has

provided, His word and His spirit!

### FANTASTIC GUIDES



Pray them into the Kingdom!

#### RHODODENDRON FOR-ESTS AND MOUNTAINS



I was surrounded by some of God's most

incredible creation!

#### A GREAT TENT MATE



Who smelt almost as bad as I did (Denise, if I ever go

camping again, which is highly unlikely, I would love to share a tent with you!)

#### The Stats

In Eleven days we trekked:

Nearly 110kms

We out trekking for Over 80 hours

Kala Pattar altitude is 5,550 meters

# Holiday Club at the Hill

This year we were very excited to run a holiday club at the Hill using a curriculum from Children Desiring God. We were excited because we believe that the children that join us for the week are not only there to have a lot of fun with us, but are also brought there by God for us to have the joy of teaching them the good news of our glorious God. The curriculum certainly proved to be a great asset in doing just that, and for a week it took us through different Bible

stories that reflected the theme of "God always

wins!"

No one should imagine, though, that we didn't have a great time of fun with the children. From the always popular sports to the wonderful music we got from *Sovereign Grace Music* and a fantastically catered tea time to give everyone enough energy, we certainly enjoyed ourselves during the week.

While the number of children who attended the holiday club was less than we had hoped and prayed for, by the end of the week we saw the wisdom of God in bringing us the number that He did. It turned out to be a great

### by Warrick Jubber

encouragement to us that we could have the time we needed to focus more closely on the individual needs of the children – time that we don't get with larger numbers. Our hope and prayers now are that the impact of this holiday club will be seen in eternity with the seeds sown being used by God to change the hearts of these *"little children"* that are so precious in his eyes (Matthew 19:14).

We must express our deepest thanks to the leaders and helpers who sacrificed of their time and energy to help us during the week. We are also extremely grateful to everyone who provided such wonderful food for us at the holiday club, and to those who helped serve in the kitchen every day. A heartfelt thank you must also go to everyone who lifted us and the children up before the Lord in their prayers. We trust that all the prayers offered will be answered by the One who "is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or *think*". Our greatest hope is that this holiday club will be to His "glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21).

### **A FEW SAYINGS ON FRIENDSHIP...**

HAPPINESS SEEMS MADE TO BE SHARED. JEAN RACINE.

IT IS VERY EASY TO FORGIVE OTHERS THEIR MISTAKES; IT TAKES MORE GRIT AND GUMPTION TO FORGIVE THEM FOR HAVING WITNESSED YOUR OWN. JESSAMYN WEST.

TRUE HAPPINESS CONSISTS NOT IN THE MULTITUDE OF FRIENDS, BUT IN THE WORTH AND CHOICE. BEN JONSON.

FOR WHOEVER KNOWS HOW TO RETURN A KINDNESS HE HAS RECEIVED MUST BE A FRIEND ABOVE ALL PRICE. SOPHOCLES.

I HAVE NO WEALTH TO BESTOW ON HIM. IF HE KNOWS THAT I AM HAPPY IN LOVING HIM, HE WILL WANT NO OTHER REWARD. IS NOT FRIENDSHIP DIVINE IN THIS? HENRY DAVID THOREAU.

SUBMITTED BY JULIE BALDWIN

d a y

**C** 







### MERCY MINISTRY

### at Central

by Freddy Kaseke

Central Baptist Church is situated in the heart of Pretoria, the Jacaranda City! beauty and the opportunities that this city can offer continue to attract many people from different parts of the Unfortunately many of the folk in search of greener pastures end up in the streets, homeless and without hope or help, and so churches have become places of refuge where people are turning to for help. response to this growing problem, we as a church have started a ministry that, with the love of Christ, reaches out in a tangible way to these people who continue to flood to the church gates with various kinds of needs. Central's mercy ministry was started three months ago.

As part of the ministry we meet in the chapel at the Arcadia campus each Wednesday. Here we listen to people individually, and give counsel where it is needed. On average, between 15 and 20 people are assisted with food, clothes, blankets and some other gifts. We don't just hand out gifts, but because we are very much concerned with the spiritual wellbeing of the people, we have a time of devotion whereby the Gospel is shared. One man, who has been in the streets for a very long time, said the following in appreciation of his time spent at Central: "At least I can listen to the word of God here - I can't go to church because of how I look, I'm afraid people won't accept me!"



Clement, a young man who sleeps in Arcadia Park, thanked the church for the blanket he received, as well as for helping him to reapply for a new identity document at Home Affairs. "I could not apply for any job. My life was miserable because I lost my ID in the streets." he said. "But now my life is back on track!", he continued.

We would like to thank everyone for your support and gifts.



The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward Him and find Him...

Acts 17: 24-27

### Seniors' Meeting at the Arcadia Campus

by Peter and Ruth Hendey

If you consider yourself a senior citizen and are not attending the Seniors Meeting held at the Arcadia campus, then you are missing out big time! This fellowship convenes every second Friday of each month from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon: meetings always include tea and cake, or soup and rolls in winter. As you know, it would not be considered kosher in Baptist circles to not have some eats.

This year the Seniors Meeting has had good talks led by various speakers. Lois Mixon has shared about their work at Bethesda, showing via a video the children reciting a 'catechism' of who God is, His Lordship, His work in creation and salvation. Les Jamieson advised us about the importance of drawing up wills and keeping our important documents in a safe We now also know more about place. bees, thanks to Tim van Stormbroek, who spoke to us about bees and even brought honey for us to buy. Andrew and Sharon George from Johannesburg reminded us of how to handle God's deliberate 'accidents'.

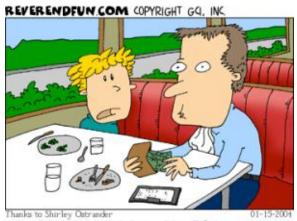
God willing, the program for the rest of the year includes a trip to Rosebank on the Gautrain in August, a school choir from Johannesburg will be coming to sing to us in September, and in October Pete and Sheri Ketterman will share about their work with Campus Outreach. The November meeting will be our last, and we plan to have an annual potite lunch.

So, if you find that your diary is clear on the second Friday morning of each month, make a date to join us at Arcadia for a time of fellowship, blessings, tea and cake, and meeting new friends. We would love to see you. If you would like to receive an sms reminder of the meetings, please give your cell phone details to the church office and they will make sure that your details are put onto the Seniors' bulk sms reminder list, thanks to Carol. Remember, there is no starting- or cut off age for this fellowship, it's up to you.

### The Seniors' Committee



GOOD THING I FOUND YOU GIDEON SEEMS SOMEONE HAS BEEN HIDING ALL YOUR BIBLES IN HOTEL ROOMS



HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?

# JUST DO IT ... Part two — by Val Nowlan —

A friend recently handed me a copy of a book on loan. This has unexpectedly led to the idea of writing part two in this experience of keeping family records (for part one, see the March 2013 issue of Life@Central).

The title of the book is *Treasuring God in our Traditions* by Noël Piper with the forward and poetry by John Piper. In reviewing it, I am encouraged to share some of the author's experiences as the wife of John Piper and as mother of their four boys and an adopted girl. I'm also encouraged to review a real page turning book. In our highly technological world real books are becoming foreign bodies. A family we know (not from Central or the Hill!) has removed all normal books from their home in spite of having a seven year old daughter.

What books should be central to our homes? Noël Piper zooms straight in on the Bible. Alongside that, for the children, Bible Story books and at Christmas and Easter small model scenes depicting those and other Bible stories. In the Piper home, tradition and truth join hands annually when these models are brought out and put where they can be seen and be central to conversation, questions and answers. The author also describes how missions and missionaries are part of their prayer times together. A world map on the wall helps to identify the whereabouts of missionaries.

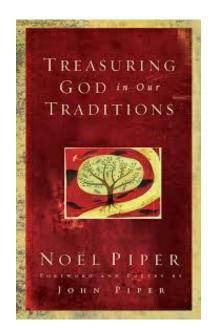
Books from the library and trips to the library can and should become part of the family routine. A special place in the home for keeping the library books; teaching the children how to find books they would like to read; teaching them the routine of library routines and the reality of using borrowed books. What a wonderful world awaits them!

The author points out that the steadiness of a daily childhood habit is a good basis for future disciplined living. Giving thanks at mealtimes – holding hands around the table, heads bowed and

eyes closed. She underscores the importance too of parents' prayers for the children even when they don't feel like praying. Praying in and for a family is not optional.

Children want to know about what we did when we were little children. This underscores the need for keeping some sort of record as I described in the first article under this title of *Just do it*. Visitors are always welcome in the Piper home. In fact visitors come and go but family prayers at meal times are always "done". What habits and traditions does your family enjoy together? What habits shape your day?

Noël Piper's description of how they have trained their children to behave in church qualifies for a further review in a future magazine. This book is worth its weight in gold! A *must have and a must read* for both the young and old.



## BABY BOOM

### AT THE HILL CAMPUS!

Reflecting the growth of the Hill campus, which celebrated its first anniversary in June, a number of families have recently been blessed with new additions of their own!



To Charles and Caroline Gibbs, and a brother to Rachel: Tim, born on 6 February 2013.



To Brandon and Janine Boman: Hadassah Grace, born on 5 February 2013.



To Tim and Anne van Stormbroek: Joah, born on 3 May 2013.



To Quentin and Tarralyn Oliphant, and a sister to Chloë: Paige, born on 28 May 2013.

# 21

### WAYS TO AVOID BECOMING A MISSIONARY

Submitted by Jeanne Sylvester. This article appeared in the May 2000 edition of the TODAY magazine, and is attributed to WEC International.

- 1. Skilfully avoid the command in John 4:35 to take a long hard look at the fields. This is not only depressing, but it is unsettling, and could lead to genuine missionary concern.
- 2. Have a good healthy (socially legitimate) target ahead of you, such as higher qualifications, promotion, bigger home, better car or higher salary.
- 3. Get married as soon as possible, so you can devote your life to the socially accepted norm of settling down, raising a family and providing for old age.
- 4. Stick to generalities. Never allow the stark needs of specific mission fields to make an impact on you. Use vague terms like "the heathen", "missions" or "the unevangelised world".
- 5. Never expose yourself to personal contact with missionaries. Their testimonies are disturbing and the situations they describe tend to contrast with the materialistic living of the western world.
- 6. Insist that your theology of guidance rules out any possibility of specific personal direction from God.
- 7. Keep busy. Always bow to the tyranny of the urgent and avoid concentration on the importance of the strategic. You can even keep busy in Christian work (as long as it's done in your own strength).
- 8. If you've been wrongly criticised, had a dirty trick pulled on you, or have otherwise come out the loser, maintain your hurt; stay offended. People with a chip on the shoulder don't often find the time for the needs of others.
- 9. Rationalise about missions. After all, if 55,000 missionaries can't finish the job, what difference will you make?
- 10. Develop a closed-door mentality. Remember Albania, Mongolia, North-Korea, iron and bamboo curtains and turned down visas. (Forget the 100-plus countries still open to missionaries.)
- 11. Develop a "national-church-can-do-it" attitude. Never investigate the percentage of the population which they constitute, or the severe limitations of their resources.
- 12. Focus your attention exclusively on the evils of your own society. All fair-minded Christians will applaud your concern about violence, drugs and abortion. "Missions begins at home" and make sure it finishes there, too.
- 13. Always keep in mind your own past failures. It is unreasonable to expect you will ever be any better. This means never study the lives of Abraham, Moses, David, Jonah, Peter or Mark who were all drop-outs at one stage, but didn't stay that way.
- 14. Always look at missionaries as super-spiritual people with tremendous gifts and saintly characters. This will heighten your sense of inadequacy and remove any guilt complex about not being one of them.
- 15. Avoid all books that emphasise the ability of the Holy Spirit to change lives (including your own) and to provide power for service.
- 16. You can always claim you don't have the "missionary gift" and since you have not been in a cross-cultural communicating ministry, no one can prove you wrong. (On the other hand, you can't prove yourself right.)
- 17. Insist that the slot you are to fill is exactly tailored to your qualifications. (That way, you'll never find an opening.)
- 18. Go out right away without any training. You'll soon be home again, but no one will be able to blame you for not trying.
- 19. Start worrying about money and the impossibility of surviving in a country with an annual one hundred percent inflation rate. (The Lord is not greater than pressures of inflation.)
- 20. Listen to those who feel you are indispensable where you are, and that your local church can't do without you.
- 21. Never sing the hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers".

### Celebrating

# year at the Hill!

Photo's: Karien Kennedy





### Hamster and bird cages and accessories available

Please contact: Jutta Rencken

012 333 5131 082 820 5040



