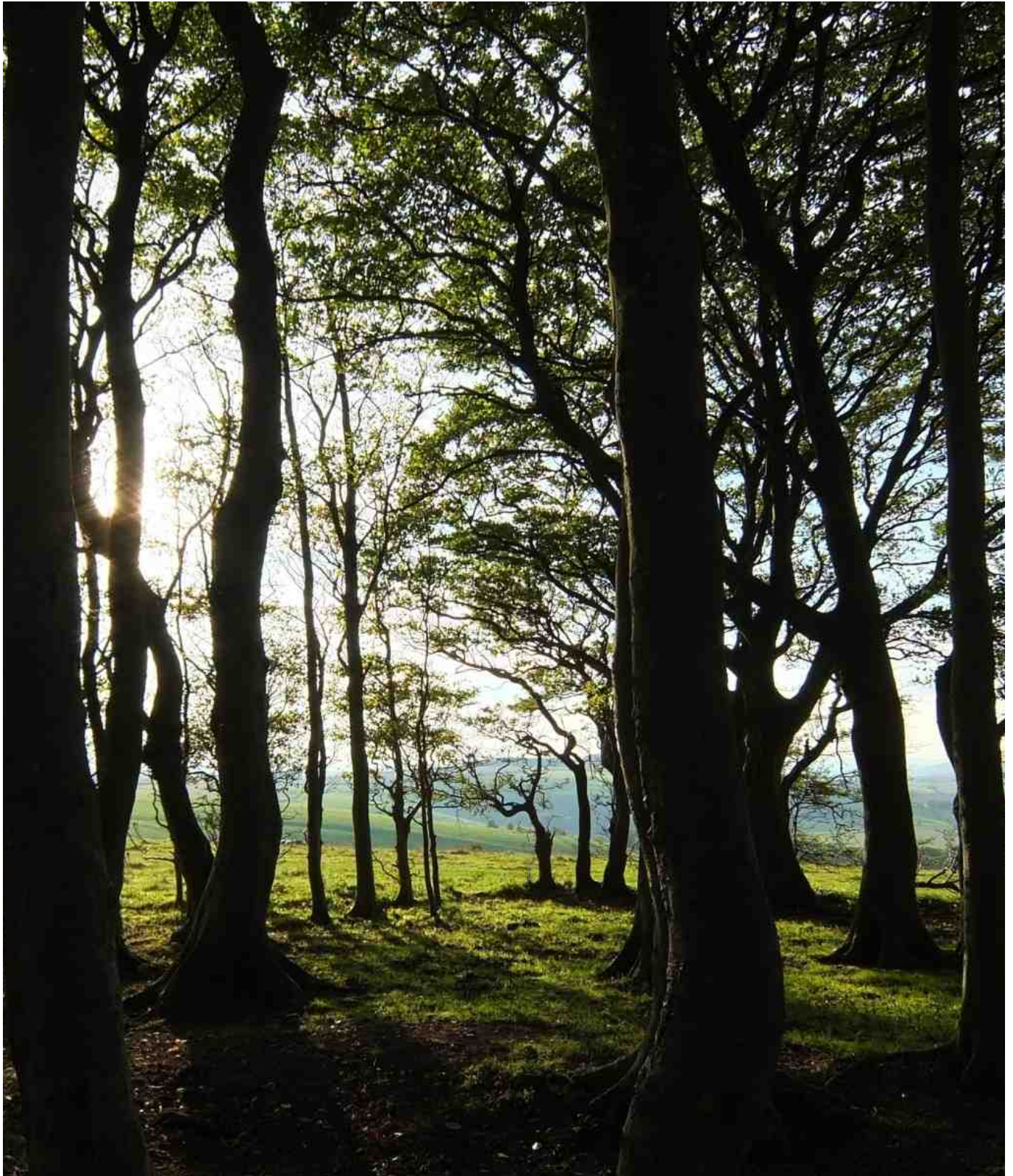


LIFE@central

August 2016

Central Baptist Church, Pretoria





PASTOR'S CORNER

by Charles de Kiewit [Senior Pastor]

Encouragement in troubled times

Dear Friends

Recently we were shocked to hear of the truck driver in France deliberately smashing into crowds of people along an esplanade in the city of Nice. Over 80 people were killed and many injured.

This incident along with others like senseless shootings, violent protests, hate speech, provocative racism, mushrooming corruption, irresponsible statements by professing Christians and much more bad news has prompted many people to ask questions about what appears to be the deteriorating state of the world.

The temptation we all face is to become negative and depressed or bury our heads in the sand. I would suggest that instead of yielding to the temptation of gloom, despair or denial; that we encourage each other to do what believers down through the ages have done in the midst of troubling times.

Here then are a few reminders of how you and I can encourage one another in times like these:

Back in the book of Acts we see the believers continuing the work of evangelism; making disciples by being faithful witnesses of Jesus. We too can and must remain steadfast in the work that God has called us to do. Let us continue to do what we normally do and ought to do in ministry in obedience to our Lord Jesus.

Rest in the sovereignty of God as God's redemptive purposes will unfold just as He planned. You and I can be assured that Romans 8:28 is true for believers of every age and place.

Follow Paul's advice to Timothy to pray 'like mad and like never before' for all people including kings and those in high positions that we may lead quiet and peaceful lives, godly and dignified in every way. It is God and God alone that we must trust and look to for our present and future.

Constantly be involved in what I have come to call the each other ministry. There are so many commands in the New Testament urging believers to be involved with each other's lives. Involvement can be at any time but we must especially remember not to forsake the gathering together of the saints Sunday my Sunday..

Live your daily life knowing that this world is not our home. The believer's citizenship is in heaven in the immediate and blessed presence of our God. Don't think there is a country or city in this world as we know it that will not manifest the ugliness of sin and evidence of the curse.

Be responsible as a citizen in whatever you do and wherever you are. Let us be the salt and light that shows Jesus to be the Light of the world.

Times like the present remind me (and I want to remind you) of the great Baptist preacher, Rex Mathie, who regularly reminded his students and congregants to remember “perhaps today”; by this statement urging us all to remember the imminent return of Jesus. Jesus is coming again when He will make all things new.

These are just a few reminders that I would urge you to take to heart and constantly

implement that we navigate our way through these troubled times with much love, faith and hope.

***Psalm 73:25-26:** Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

Charles

Prayer for my ministry

Lord, I give myself to fully follow You, whatever it may mean. Take every aspect of my life and use me for Your purposes to glorify Your name. I’m not here on earth to do my own thing, to seek my own fulfilment or my own glory. I’m not here to indulge my flesh, to increase my possessions, to impress people, to be popular, to prove I’m somebody important, or to promote myself. I’m not here even to be relevant or successful by human standards. I’m here to please You.

I’ll do anything You want me to do as long as You lead me; go anywhere You want me to go since You will go with me; and say anything that You want me to say as long as You will fill me. Teach me, guide me, empower me as I climb the ministry mountain.

Father, there isn’t any gift You have for me I don’t want. If You want me to wait to accomplish Your work, I will. If You want to use me in a way that I’m not used to, I yield myself to that. I trust You, Lord, to do that which I cannot do for myself. Today I affirm my love for You, my God, and I choose to live and minister in Your way for the rest of my life. To the glory of the Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the name of the Lord Jesus, for the health of the church, and the very best of many everywhere, I ask these things. Amen.

*(Ruth Myers, Cindy Jacobs,
Dale Schlafer, Ramesh Richard)*

Submitted by Bev van Rensburg

www.rreach.org

CARING MINISTRY

by Lukie Dercksen [Care Pastor]



Central Baptist Membership

Central Baptist Church is not perfect... Neither are its members...

But we strive to Worship God, care for each other and impact the world. It is a blessing to be part of such a vibrant, God-honouring church. We want to encourage everyone to become a member, take responsibility and participate in building God's kingdom here at Central. We have regular church meetings where members are led by the Holy Spirit and take part in the governance of Central.

Membership is of great importance to us. There are many believers attending Central that have not yet become members. I want to encourage all believers that attend to become members. Here's how:

- * Speak to one of the elders about membership
- * Your name will be added to the membership pipeline
- * You will attend a new members tea
- * You will be assigned an elder
- * We will now get to know one another
- * A recommendation will be made to the Council
- * If the council approves your application, you will be taken up into membership at a communion service
- * If council does not approve your application, a follow up conversation will take place

Members should never be seat warmers. We give our lives in service of the Master.

It is an honour and a privilege to be part of His church. Let's pray for one another, encourage one another, and work together, so that by His grace, we will further His kingdom.

Lukie

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://www.central.org.za>

Previous editions (2006 to 2015) are also available.

Articles for *Women's Value* compiled by Natasha Dercksen. Edited by Daniel Salzwedel.

THE PERFECT TREE



BY ANN ONIMOUS



Most people who have a garden love growing trees. We always have a picture in mind of the 'perfect' tree: growing straight and symmetrical, not affected by pests of any kind, not making too much of a mess by continuously dropping leaves and so forth. Just standing there and looking pretty.

On a recent trip to the northern regions of the Kruger National Park, I had the opportunity to look at trees. A lot of them. Thousands. Millions. If you've ever been there, you will know that, except for elephants, a person battles to see any game because of the trees. And even the elephants 'disappear' in the blink of an eye.

So I looked at the trees, and do you know what? Not one single 'perfect' tree. Everyone had some or other scar: a patch of bark gnawed off by a rodent or termites, branches torn off by destructive baboons, whole tops of trees lopped off by elephants. There was even an extensive stretch of Mopani trees growing at a 45 degree angle, bent thus by a flood some years ago.

That got me thinking. We are much like our 'perfect' trees. We like to present a faultless image: the perfect marriage, well behaved children, a house in the right neighbourhood, especially a healthy spiritual life ... but, like the trees, not one of us is really perfect.

Sometimes the bark of our egos is gnawed off by an unfair accusation or unwarranted rejection. Sometimes our souls feel ripped out by the loss of a loved one. Our tops lopped off by retrenchment, financial difficulties or illness. We might even be battling resentment and hatred caused by a flood of political unfairness or war. Endless soul crippling possibilities. Perfect? No, definitely not!

Back at home, I downloaded the photos taken. Photos of trees, trees, beautiful trees! All of them doing what God intended them to do: providing shade and shelter, providing food, keeping the soil from eroding with their roots. Growing in spite of all the injuries inflicted upon them, closing up scars, sprouting new branches, producing seeds so that there will be more trees after them. Just being perfect trees!

Can't we be a little more like those trees? Less obsessed with ourselves and our appearance. More honest in admitting our need for help or prayer. More giving without counting the cost. More aware of leaving a legacy of discipleship, of a close walk with God.

What the trees taught me is that 'being perfect' has nothing to do with the world's expectation, but with obeying God's commands.

The Discipline of Resting in Christ

by Patrick Kennedy

The nature of my IT job is one of continual problem solving. I have learnt through many experiences that my mind is much more productive and apt for resolving problems when I am well rested, than if I am determined to push on and try and resolve problems while being exhausted.

Man needs rest to function properly, and that on all levels; physically, cognitively and spiritually. The first two of these are easy to address, but spiritual rest is more elusive. The reason for this is that true spiritual rest can only be found with God, and that only in Christ, and that only through faith.

As with so many shadows in the Old Testament of true things to come, the Sabbath was given to the Jews as a precursor to the true rest to be found in Christ by those who believe. Hebrews 4 does a great job of explaining this truth to us.

But practically, how does this rest in Christ work in the life of a believer? Surely, we all found rest in Christ, the Prince of Peace, when we first believed. We all experienced the grace of God when we believed and felt the burden of having to try and accomplish our own righteousness being lifted. But is that all? Do we enter God's rest and never have one worry or upsetting incident in our lives ever again? Did all problems and challenges that this world throws at us simply disappear when we first believed in Christ? Of course not.

Just as I know that problems are bound to keep coming my way in my job, I can be sure that while I am in this world, life will be throwing all kinds of problems, challenges and sorrows my way. But just as I am convinced that enough sleep makes me capable of effective problem solving, I know that being regularly at rest in Christ makes me capable of handling life's bumps in a God-honouring manner.

So isn't peace in Christ through faith a one-time thing? No. You see, the Bible says that the righteous will live by faith. It is a continual living by a continual practice of faith. That is exactly why there is such a thing as maturing or growing in faith. Jesus refers to doing the will of the Father as His bread, and He says that man will not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. The imagery of bread signifies not so much something that gives life as something that sustains life. It is not a once off thing, it is taken daily.

For me to be well rested whenever the job throws problems my way, I have to be well rested in advance and not in response. This does however not come naturally. My inclination when things get difficult at work is to work harder, which then results in exhaustion and an impaired ability to perform optimally. To avoid this situation then, I need to discipline myself to get enough sleep in advance, simply because I believe it is what I will need the next day, not knowing what evils that day will bring.

In the same way, we as Christians should not be living at the spiritual edge of our lives, where we only run to God when the going gets tough. We should be well rested in Christ at all times, and it does take faith and discipline. Faith, because we need to believe that we can only have effective spiritual functioning when we are close to God, and discipline as the practical outcome of that faith.

The post-modern mind cringes at the idea of spiritual discipline, seeing it as something that cannot add real value to anything, but to the believer it is the practice of faith. It is our declaration of dependence. We simply cannot function properly without the sustaining disciplines of talking to God in prayer, of reading His Word and of obeying His commands. Indeed, He is not only the giver of life, but the Life itself.

So the next time when your life seems to be filled with insurmountable problems, it may be

a good time for you to check your spiritual disciplines. Are you still close to God? I find in my own life that the perceived magnitude of life's pressures and problems can be directly linked to my lack of spiritual discipline. It is not that God suddenly removes all rocks from our paths when we draw close to Him, but no one can deny that when you are living close to God the rocks in your road suddenly become that much easier to negotiate. Living and walking with God daily, which is never apart from our spiritual discipline, brings a certain speeding ahead of things in our lives. To outsiders it may seem like the same problems with the same solutions, but in our hearts we joyfully thank God for being our very real and tangible help in times of need.

Praise God for reconciling us to Him through his son Jesus Christ, and granting us the immeasurable rich experience of living in fellowship with Him, the living God of everything!

A Glenhaven Testimony

by Margie Martin

Mrs. Joan Zulch was a resident at Glenhaven. She lived in one of the single bedroom flats and seemed happy.

She chatted to folk as they walked past while she was watering her garden, and when she went to meals daily, in the dining room.

She was a sweet lady, probably about 80 years old and kept to herself a lot.

One of our residents, who is also on the Spiritual Ministries committee, visited her one day. It was the 28th March 2016.

Mrs. Zulch died on the 16th May 2016.

Her family, when clearing her flat, gave her books and other items to the "white elephant". Amongst these books was a Good News Bible.

The book shop lady, Mrs. Liz Theron, opened the Bible to see if there were any personal names etc. inside, before she put it on the shelf for sale. This is what she found in the front of the Bible:

"Today, the 28th March 2016, Kathy McIvor visited me at about 11am. She spoke kindly to me and told me that I should give my heart to God and ask Jesus to come into my life and be my Saviour. She prayed for this to take place. I then repeated the prayer after her." Signed Joan Zulch.

Only God knows if she was truly saved but we believe she was.

It is never too late or too early to be told about Jesus and that He saves.

— Darren, Andrea and Caleb van Rensburg —

Our Ministry in Ecuador

"May the favour of the Lord Our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands"
Psalm 90:17

Darren, Andrea and Caleb van Rensburg are serving as missionaries in Saraguro, Southern Ecuador, South America, with special focus on a new generation who are showing real enthusiasm and openness to the things of God.



We are longing to build up a prayer and support base, truly believing that God answers prayer, and longing to see His Kingdom extended in this needy area through your prayers.

If you are interested in finding out a little more, or getting involved, here are 6 ways you can do this:

1. Come and pray with us on the 4th September after the Sunday Morning service at Arcadia.
2. You are invited to a bring-and-share farewell lunch at Arcadia after the morning service on the 25th September just before we return to Ecuador (reply at the Connection Desk on September 18th).
3. Send us an email (dna.vanrensburg@gmail.com) asking for our newsletter. We would also love to pray for you, so send us your prayer requests and news!
4. Have a look at our facebook page – Heart for Saraguro: www.facebook.com/aheart4Saraguro
5. Include us in your prayers: Please pray for...

- God's strength and wisdom in order to survive and thrive in early parenthood!
- More workers for Saraguro!
- The small discipleship group in Oñakapak, that they would become true followers of Christ, who in turn would lead the way for the future transformation of the entire community and beyond!

6. If you would like to give to us financially, the account is:

- OM South Africa
- Account number 331947331
- Standard Bank, Hatfield branch
- Branch code 051001

- Reference: Darren & Andrea van Rensburg (if this is excluded, the finances will go to OM's general account)
- If you would like a debit order form to give monthly, please let us know (email address above).





*Reuben, Bev, Andrea, Caleb, Darren and Pastor Charles
at the Arcadia campus, 24 July*



Southern Ecuador

CREATION

and the ongoing debate

by John Nowlan

In 2008 the teaching of evolution was introduced into the Grade 12 Life Science curriculum as well as the Grade 7 History in South Africa. It has now been removed from the grade 7 syllabus. Although evolution is a theory which states that human beings evolved along with all other forms of life from a common ancestor by means of natural selection and random mutation over a period of many centuries, many teachers, lecturers and professors state categorically that this is a fact and not a theory.

The question is how can Christian parents prepare their children to have a Biblical view of creation? There is no easy quick-fix answer, because this touches on so many different aspects of our lives.

I would recommend that parents purchase copies of the magazine *Creation* published by *Creation Ministries International*. It comes out four times per year. The costs at present are R200 for four issues. Back issues are

often cheaper to purchase. They also have many other useful resources. There are books for children, tracts to use in evangelism and a whole host of DVDs to watch. Enlighten yourself and give your children information that will help them.

I was given a copy of *Evolution's Achilles' Heels*. Fifteen PhD scientists explain evolution's fatal flaws in areas claimed to be its greatest strengths. Sub-titles are available in English, Afrikaans and 14 non-South African languages. This is quite deep and so not everyone will enjoy it. The magazine is very user friendly, so make a start with it.

The South African subscription details for the magazine are:

Creation Ministries International
P.O. Box 3349,
Durbanville, 77551,
South Africa
Phone 021 9790107



WOMEN'S VALUE

Compiled by Natasha Dercksen

A letter from Carol

Dear Central ladies

The world is going **MAD**...



This is the statement I heard on the radio this morning. Yes there are plenty disasters, lots of tragedy, evil is prevalent everywhere you look, it does appear that the world is going mad.

The seemingly negative and “no hope” state of our country and the world, can easily take us down a bleak, dark road of discouragement and depression if we allow our minds to dwell on the madness of the world. Instead we need to be looking into the consistent Word of God to find hope and encouragement.

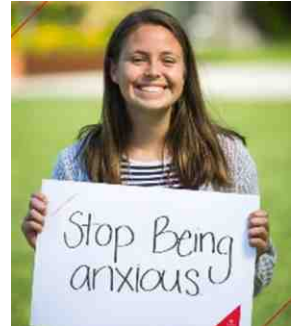
I know that I am so guilty of this, I see all this horrible “stuff” and I begin to panic. I lose sight of who God is, what He has done in the past and how He can sustain us through to the end. I worry about my children, grand-children, I worry about their education, our finances, the health care system in SA, the violence and crime, I stress over our retirement. Many things cause me extreme anxiety.

As I remind myself, may you too be reminded of a passage of scripture which will give us hope.

Luke 12:22-31

Jesus tells His disciples and us, to stop being anxious. He tells us not to be concerned about what we shall eat, drink, wear and our declining bodies.

He tells us to consider the following:



THE RAVENS who neither sow nor reap, they don't own storehouses or barns, but God feeds them. Now if God can provide for these little birds, and arrange it so these little creatures are fed each day, surely we should not fear that He would let us, His children starve.

Look at THE LILIES, they don't work, they don't spin, yet God provides each year, living leaves and blossoms. We



shouldn't doubt His power and willingness to keep us clothed.

Christians should never be anxious as those living without God.



The heathen are ignorant and know nothing about the real nature of God.

We can say with confidence *"He is my Father, my Saviour and He takes care of me"*.

Our Father has a perfect knowledge of our need, our circumstances and the messy world we live in. He is not ignorant and surprised by what is happening. This thought alone should give us a sense of contentment and hope. Our Father can and will relieve the reason for our anxiety whenever it is good for our souls.

Let this sink into our hearts until we believe what we say we do. A Christian's usefulness and her inward peace is flawed by a troubled heart. Her anxiousness will prevent her from being a light and a Godly testimony in this sick world.

The Lord is my shepherd,



I shall not want.
Psalm 23:1

What a testimony it would be if the world could look at us and see a peace, a cheerful spirit, a hope in the midst of darkness. If they could see our faith in a powerful God, if they could see a woman who confidently says *"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want"* – and she believes it.

How is this supposed to happen? Simply by - *"Seeking the kingdom of God"*.



Our lives should be lived for the Lord, our eyes should be steadfastly stayed on the Lord, despite the events around us, God is to be our focus. As JC Ryle put it *"We are to live like beings who have immortal souls to be lost or saved, - a death to die, - a God to meet, - a judgment to expect, - and an eternity in heaven"*.



We should be living like we believe that. This should affect how we interact with our family, friends and those we meet every day. This should affect our response to the evils in this world.

We seek the kingdom of God when we give Him the primary place in our minds.

If we have God's Kingdom in our minds, we will realise that what we have here on earth is just temporary, this evil world will one day be forced to bow it's knee and acknowledge Christ as Lord of all.

If we have God's Kingdom in our minds we will be more confident to say *"the world is going mad but my hope is in Christ. He cares for the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, how much more does He care for me"*.

Put God first and the world second, give second place to the things of this world and first place to your soul.

God will fulfil His promise in Luke 12 ... *"all things will be added to you"*. The man/woman who seeks God first may not have so much health as some, she may not be as rich as some, she may not have the luxuries of Woolworths food, she may not be rescued from the evils of society, but she will always have enough – **Phil 4:19**

"No good thing will the Lord withhold from them that walk uprightly" **Psalm 84:11**

Live your life for the Kingdom of God - for your soul's sake - this will remove much unnecessary anxiety.

Carol



What the ladies of Central have been up to these past few months ...

Serving, serving, and more serving. We are blessed to have humble ladies in Central, always being prepared to serve others. Here are Ros Robbins and Elizma Louw cutting onions, as well as Eileen Fredrickson and Charlene Harald buttering buns at the Missions Evening held at the Hill Campus during the Month of June.



Michaela Skinner playing the role of the "Inn Keeper" and Jamie De Kiewit playing the role of "Mary" during the Christmas Carol Service held at the Arcadia campus during December 2015.



Central's ladies ...

Some of our ladies at Central attended courses to better equip themselves for the work of the Lord. Thando Vumisa is one of the ladies attending the Puppet Show Training course at the Arcadia campus to serve others through the Puppet Ministry.

The ladies of Central meet five times a year for the Kings Rubies meetings where they receive spiritual food, as well as delicious food. Fellowship is also a big part of the meeting where ladies have the opportunity to make friends. "The Five Women of Proverbs" is the topic of discussion for 2016 and the theme for 2016 is "God's Gals in a Godless World". "The Captivating Woman", "The Indiscrete Woman" and "The Irritating Woman" were the topics of discussion at the past three Kings Rubies meetings. There are only two meetings left for the rest of 2016. On 20 August 2016 Kings



Rubies plan to discuss "The Immoral Woman" and excitedly there will be approximately 15 tables hosted by 15 different volunteer ladies, each hosting their own table during this meeting. What a wonderful way of serving each other. The last meeting will be held on 15 October 2016 and "The Ideal Woman" will be under investigation. The ladies at Central always look forward to these meetings as they grow spiritually and enjoy a time away from the rat race in the presence of fellow sisters.

Zena Kingon is one of the ladies at Central who has been attending womens meetings, such as Kings Rubies, since 1982. We are blessed to have her as she is such an example to our younger ladies.



Some ladies got injured during the church family camp of 2016. Although Rachel Gibbs broke her little arm falling off the veranda and Dawn Robb fell down injuring her head and arm, their eyes and mouths kept on smiling as their hearts kept on shining.



WOMEN'S VALUE

Compiled by Natasha Dercksen

THE LORD WATCHES OVER ME

The story of Inutu Kamuwanga

God watches over our lives even when we are not aware of it. He plans every path in our life here on earth before we are born - Jeremiah 1:5, Psalm 139:13, 15-16. Knowing that God was in control of every detail of my being became significant later in my life since I was orphaned in my early years of primary school. My life changed after the loss of my parents and became difficult in many ways as I lived with different relatives who took care of me.

I was fortunate to live with a guardian who worked as a boarding master at the mission high school in the area. This mission station housed a clinic, primary and boarding high school, a school for the blind and a local church ran by several missionaries and partly by the government. I attended my primary and high school at the mission station which provided a Christian environment for me. My guardians were very involved at the local church so I went to church and attended Sunday school. The Lord began to work in my life then.

In my last two grades of primary school I began to have interest in the Scripture Union (SU) meetings held at the high school near my house for high school scholars which my older relatives attended. Since I was still in primary school and not a teen, I was not permitted to participate though I longed so much to go. Nevertheless, when SU had their weekly

evening meetings, I would stand outside my house and sing along from the Living Songs hymn book. After these meetings I would enquire what my relatives studied from the Bible and they would explain to me but it was not enough and I really wanted to go on my own.

In grade seven I negotiated ("negotiation" is a skill I learnt fast in my early life as it was tough without my parents) with my guardians to attend Scripture Union Camps which were held at the end of every second term of school in August for seven days. I fortunately got permitted but only to attend meetings held during the day. I did not get the whole cake, I





WOMEN'S VALUE

missed out on the exciting evening activities and relaxed fellowship! But this step was very instrumental in my journey to know Christ. The Bible teaching at Scripture Union and my missionary teachers at my school become a source of parenting and comfort during my youth in physical and spiritual matters.

I accepted the Lord in my life during a Bible study at camp. My Bible study leader asked radical question in class - "Do you know for sure where you will spend eternity, if you died today, this very moment?" As I thought about the question, I realised that as much as I was a good child and went to Sunday school, I did not know where I would end up, heaven or hell. I saw my need for Christ that day and I became a Christian. My Christian walk began from there many years ago. I became very close to one of my missionary teachers and his wife (thank God for missionaries) who taught me the word of God in my new walk and thus my life in Christ was laid from there to face the tough times that lay ahead so unknown to me.

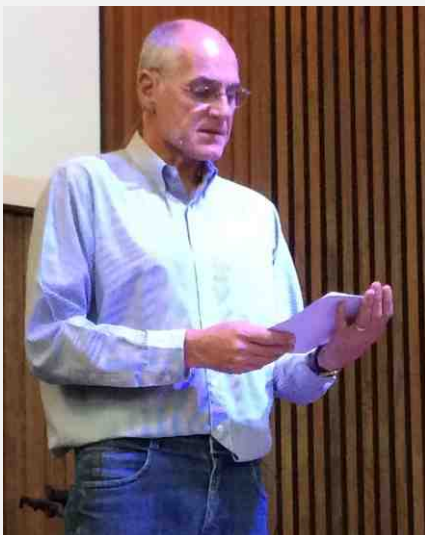
marriage, coming to South Africa and working in a foreign country, having children and eventually losing my husband in 2010, I reflect on the goodness of knowing the Lord as a personal saviour who is forever faithful. The Lord has been a pillar of my strength throughout life's challenges. He has promised us in His word to never leave us nor forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:8) and He further promises that no one can snatch us from His hand (John 10:28-30) as we daily seek Him. God crafts our lives and preserves our faith in His infinite wisdom and sovereignty. Without His grace, simply taking a breath would be impossible.

It is my prayer that many may come to the saving grace of Christ where it all begins (John 3:16).

He watches over me ... "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you" (Genesis 28:15a).

As I went through young adulthood, work,

Iñutu Kamuwanga



Central's 125th annual general meeting was held on 22 May 2016. During this meeting the number of elders was increased from six to eight. Hedzer Turkstra was re-elected as elder, and Sammy Rabolele and Patrick Mutombo elected as new elders.



Baptism - Some Personal Memories

by Gisela Nicholson

Listening to Pastor Charles' inspiring message about Baptism on Sunday, 17 July 2016, brought back memories of some related experiences in my own life.

My spiritual father, Elmer Klassen, was an American missionary in Frankfurt, Germany. He often told that he was "baptized twice". He grew up in a Mennonite church in Kansas, USA, and as a young man was desperately longing for assurance of salvation. Hoping that this would give him the longed for assurance, he had himself baptized. But that did not help. Some time later he did receive assurance through the Word of God and underwent baptism again, now as a believer.

For myself, I grew up as a member of the Lutheran Church, being christened as a new born baby in 1936 while still in the hospital with my mother where she had given birth. After Elmer led me to the Lord in May 1957, he often urged me to get baptized, but I always replied that I had been baptized (in German there is only one word for 'christening' and 'baptism'), and I considered that to be enough.

Only when I went to Bible School in 1958 at the European Bible Institute in Paris, France, did I feel the Lord convicting me that I should be baptized. Thus I was baptized by one of our lecturers in a small evangelical church in Paris in the spring of 1959, giving my testimony in French for the first time.

My husband Ken Nicholson was a fellow student at EBI. He grew up in a Methodist church in Boksburg, Transvaal, and found the Lord through a Billy Graham campaign in London in the early 1950s. After graduating we got

married in Germany and then moved to East London where we attended and then decided to join City Baptist Church in Oxford Street. So Ken was baptized by Rev. Roger Voke early in 1963 – during the same service in which our first child, Philip, was dedicated.

So for both Ken and myself it took some time, after our conversion, to be convinced by the Lord that we should be baptized as believers, and that this was a matter of obedience rather than our feelings or opinion on the matter.

A footnote: When I was in Germany in May/June 2016 I joined a tour group traveling "On the Tracks of Martin Luther". We visited various towns in East Germany that were significant in

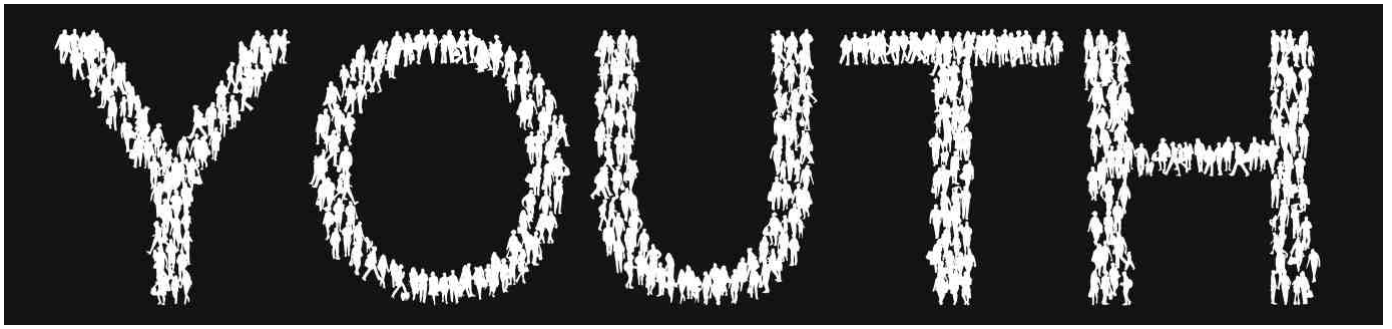


Luther's life, the last one being Eisleben where he was both born and died. He was christened in this church, then a Catholic church, which became a Lutheran church only after the Reformation. Interestingly, this baptism pool was added to the church in 2012 in the

floor near the entrance – obviously not meant for the christening of babies but the baptism of adults.

Many people who, under communist rule, never had contact with any church, are now coming to Christ and so need to be baptized as believers to be able to join even Lutheran churches.





The Small Fry at the Hill Campus enjoy learning more about God while having loads of fun. The term ended off with "make your own pizza".



The kids learning about God on the Church Family Camp while playing games, singing, watching puppet shows and doing some crafts



The 2016 Blast Off Camp



HOLIDAY CLUB 2016

Arcadia Campus

Cave Quest holiday club at Arcadia was a wonderful week of ministry. We had around 180 children and 30 leaders. As always we look to God for fruit from all ministry endeavours, striving forward with the Gospel. Every day at holiday club every leader works toward laying one Biblical truth on a child's heart. This year these truths included: *Day 1.* Jesus gives us hope. *Day 2.* Jesus gives us courage. *Day 3.* Jesus gives us direction. *Day 4.* Jesus gives us love. *Day 5.* Jesus gives us power. Every point included a memory verse for children to learn.

At the Friday evening we hosted around 60 parents, giving them a taste of what we did at holiday club and presented a short gospel challenge. Let's praise God for the great opportunity we had to share His love. Of course, this ministry would not happen without the volunteers, prayers, donations and support from people in the church, I praise and thank God for every contribution.



*The 2016
Holiday Club at
the Arcadia
Campus*



Now just in case some are wondering about the fruitfulness of this ministry, let me introduce you to Tanuja and her two children; Shasti & Keshav.

Their first contact with Central was when Keshav attended last year's holiday club. He then invited his mom and sister to come along to the parents evening. Since that time they have been attending church as a family and both Shasti and Keshav are involved in the Friday night youth groups. This year they were involved in a car accident, injuring all three of them, but by God's grace they came through and will testify to the sustaining goodness of God and the love shown them through the Central body. It was rewarding to see the family getting involved with holiday club this year with Shasti assisting one of the classes and Tanuja cooking a meal for the leaders. Keshav also took part in the program. I'm excited to see how God will use this family for His glory.

We do not expect holiday club to be the only ministry into our community but it is one link in the chain towards caring for our community by sharing the good news. As a church body we all have our part to do in displaying the glory of God to the people who are yet to see it.

by AJ Meiring



Shasti, Tanuja and Keshav

The Hill Campus

85 children attended the holiday club at The Hill, and with a great many attendees having come from families that do not attend services at this campus, it was a truly blessed opportunity to reach children that would otherwise not have been reached by Central.



LIVES & TIMES @CENTRAL



*Mark and MK Wood with baby Elliott,
August 2015*



*Baby Anna Grace N'Samba,
October 2015*



Baby Elliott Wood



*Joah very proud of his baby
sister Katie May van
Stormbroek,
September 2015*





Quintin and Taz Oliphant with Cloe, Paige and baby Holly, November 2015

New lives @Central



Joshua and Kemi Dele-Ijagbulu's with baby Rhema Ifeoluwa Dele-Ijagbulu, February 2016



Bradley and Sarah Salzwedel with James and baby Kerry, January 2016



Brandon, Janine and Hadassah Boman with baby Seth Aaron, April 2016



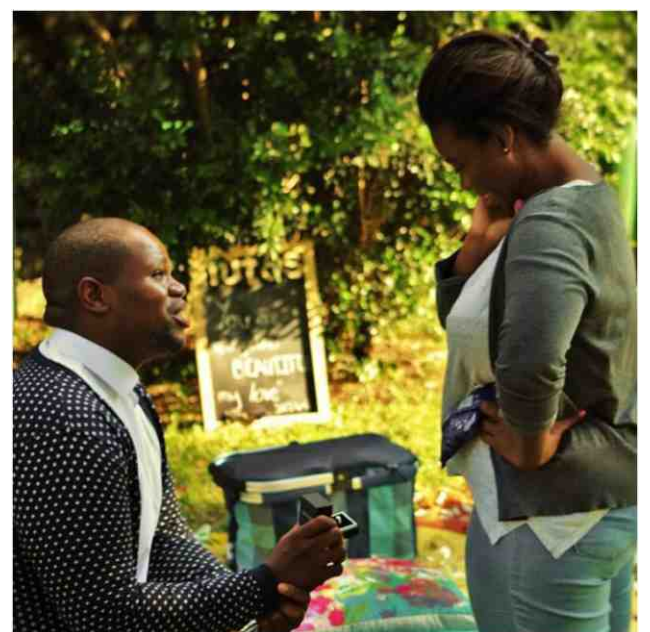
Baby Stephan Kotzé, June 2016



*Darren and Andrea van Rensburg with baby Caleb Timothy,
April 2016*

*Adrian and Lindie Naude with
Rachel, Kyle, baby Hannah and
Sarah (and the grandparents),
February 2016*

*Freddy and Clotilda Kaseke
dedicating Melissa Nyota,
November 2015*



*Beast proposing to Sli
April 2016*

**Two dedications
and an
engagement ...**



The wedding of Casper and Aideen Beukes, with Nadine, Corlene, Casper jnr, Ryan and Kathleen, February 2016



Rhapule and Tume's wedding, May 2015



Five weddings



Daniel and Nicola Salzwedel, February 2016



Tim and Sharne Kruger, March 2016



Missy and Lohan van der Walt, March 2016

International lunch



The ambassador of Peru



Max and Christobel Ansell



Freddy, Clotilda and Melissa Kaseke



Pete and Shery Kettermann



An angel

by Valerie Cotton

came to visit me in hospital

At the beginning of June I went into hospital for an arthroscopy on my knee. I had checked into the hospital at 06:30 and endured the long, freezing and hungry wait in my "designer" theatre gown until lunch time when I was eventually taken to the operating theatre in my hospital bed. At first I was pushed into an anteroom and was joined by another patient in the queue with her bed pushed next to mine. We smiled at each other in silent greeting.

A nurse came to ask my companion-patient what her "preferable" name was. She was a bit puzzled but then gave her first name. I remembered from previous surgery that when one comes out of anaesthetic you are called by your name to make sure you are conscious. Surnames could be a problem I suppose. Imagine being called Mrs Katzenjammerowitch repeatedly when trying to wake you. Then my thoughts went to the fact that we refer to our first name as our Christian name. That would be a problem if for instance the patient was a Muslim. So to be politically correct they ask for your "preferable" name instead. When the nurse came to me I stated emphatically what my Christian name was. My companion and I grinned together.

Then suddenly a very tall, very old man appeared in our supine visions. His face was so lined and crumpled, it looked like newspaper that had been crumpled up, all creased. He laughed out loudly and boisterously and

exclaimed how nice it was to see us smiling. He stood between us and jumped a little to emphasise what he was saying. He said smiling was a very good thing - it boosts your immune system and helps you to recover quickly. He was laughing gaily. I took his old brown hand in mine and asked him his name. Samuel, he said, after Samuel in the Bible. Then he recited the story of Samuel, how his mother could not have a baby and she went to the tabernacle to pray to God to give her a baby. And the priest thought she was drunk as she was praying silently, only her lips moving. She told Eli the priest that she was praying for a baby. If God would give her a baby she would dedicate it to the Lord's service. The priest said she will have a baby. She named her son Samuel and when he was weaned she took him to the temple into the Lord's service. This present Samuel said then that his life is also in the Lord's service and that he had been a pastor for a long time. Then with another happy laugh he said he is just seeing that the room is clean and free of dust and he was gone.

I was so struck by this and felt the nearness of the Lord in this strange interlude. I'm sure I was still smiling when the friendly anaesthetist put me to sleep. (When you smile everybody is friendly). An angel had indeed visited me.

Thank you to all the church friends for your interest and prayers, phone calls and visits at this time.

Valerie Cotton

"A cheerful heart is good medicine"
Proverbs 17:22 (NIV)

Bethesda Outreach Newsletter



Raised to Praise

Bethesda Outreach

April/May/June 2016

*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*

- Thandiwe's birthday 1 June
- Alex's birthday 7 June
- Thembi's birthday 10 June
- Natasja's birthday 10 June

- Letswalo's Anniversary 13 June
- Kgothatso's birthday 26 June
- Nkosi's birthday 1 July
- Prima's birthday 6 July

- Luciano's birthday 13 July
- Shane's birthday 20 July
- Amo's birthday 23 July
- Chifundo's birthday 25 July

Bethesda Partners,

Thanks so much for partnering with Bethesda!

Seriously though, how can Bethesda partner with you?

Foster parents, adoptive parents, grandparents parenting grandchildren, relief workers for families with special-needs children, care givers in children's homes, social workers, grown up adopted children and families seeking to adopt – these are some of the people we have met in our travels recently. It is both amazing and impressive to actually see the number and variety of people involved in pursuing the fatherless.

I have not been serving at Bethesda as Executive Director very long, but in every venue where I speak about orphan care or present Bethesda, Sue and I meet people deeply involved with vulnerable and orphaned children. If I had to choose one illustration from all the stories that we have heard, it would be a Grandmother in a church in Pretoria as she told me the story of her son adopting several black African children and how God used that to change her heart in incredible ways.



I believe that the mission statement of Bethesda Outreach is absolutely right on target. We want to be a ministry that assists churches to do what only churches can do. . . serve as a community of God's people who help connect children into permanent families where they will have the opportunity to hear and know God's life-changing love in Christ Jesus.

While your prayers, visits, and financial support are vital to caring for the orphans entrusted to Bethesda, the real assignment includes the perhaps unseen opportunities in your church, family, and community to embrace vulnerable and orphan children.

Bethesda wants to help raise awareness, grow compassion, and stimulate action that expresses the heart of God to these children. How can we help you start, celebrate, encourage, or grow all or any of these aspects of gospel focused orphan care in your church or family?

Contact us. We would really love to partner with you in orphan care. I think together we can make a difference in children's lives for Jesus sake.

Blessings . . . Don

Don Whipple
Executive Director
Bethesda Outreach Ministries
765.404.6070
interimed@boi.org



"I love you, O LORD,
my strength.

The LORD is my rock
and my fortress and my
deliverer, my God, my
rock, in whom I take
refuge, my shield,
and the horn of
my salvation,
my stronghold."

-Psalm 18:1,2

Bethseda Outreach Newsletter

Bethseda Fun Run & Family Day



Smiles, sweat, and screams of excitement and laughter were everywhere during our recent Fun Run. The pictures say it all! The 2016 Bethesda Fun Run and Family day was a great success. We had 200+ people come and spend several hours running, and participating in a variety of different activities over the course of the day. The morning was very cold for the start of the 10K race but warmed up an hour later for the 5K race.



The Maze was a hit with the kids who enjoyed running through it trying to find the pictures that were hidden inside. They also enjoyed the bungee jump and the soccer penalty kick. Maybe next year we will have a bungee jump for the adults too!



As the morning progressed, we gave out prizes for the race winners as well as spot prizes sponsored by some of our local friends from the Tamboti Lodge, Kwalata Resort, Spur Restaurant and the Dinokeng Game Reserve.

Mountains of popcorn along with Curry Rice and Boerewors Rolls (Sausage) were sold and consumed while all of our racers and volunteers sported brand new T-shirts with the Fun Day logo and sponsors proudly displayed.

Our goal was to provide a day of fun, to make and strengthen relationships as well as help people see what Bethesda is doing to help solve the greater need for child care in South Africa. Our Executive Director got involved by doing a very long bike ride to help raise awareness in the USA.



Thanks to everyone who participated! It was a great day!



ANDY

the ant



The "Andy the Ant" series of children's stories, written by Max Ansell, follows the adventures and experiences of Andy and his friends at a Mission school in Swaziland.

The Strawberry Cake

Jesus said, "Go, then, to all peoples everywhere
and make them My disciples"

Matthew 28:19

"Jimmy," said the Missionary to his son one evening, "don't leave the cake out when you have had a piece. Please put it back in the tin and up on the shelf or else the ants will be in it in no time."

"Okay, Dad," said Jimmy as he cut himself a big piece of cake.

But Missionaries' sons are like most other boys, they soon forget.

When Jimmy turned the kitchen light off, the plate with the cake was left standing on the table with crumbs all around it!

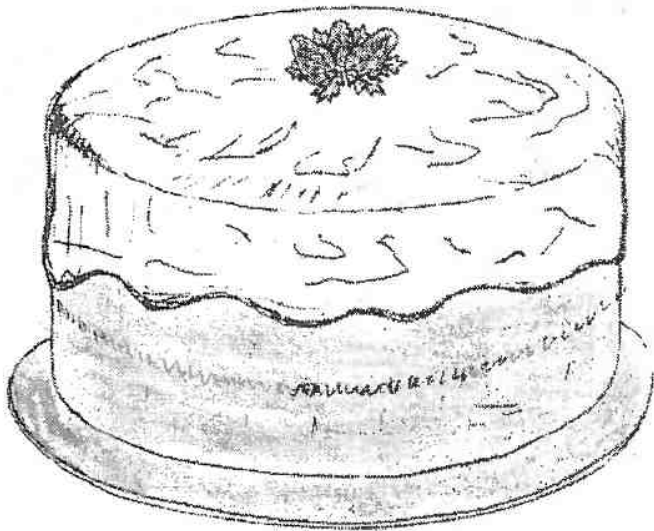
"Sniff! sniff! sniff! Hullo" said Andy to

himself, "I smell something sweet. Aha! It smells like strawberry cake!" And with that he ran around the kitchen floor until he arrived at the foot of the table leg. He stopped, there was a lovely strawberry cake crumb on the floor.

"It must have come from the table." thought Andy and then he added aloud, "Archie, come over here, maybe I've hit the jackpot. There could be enough cake for everybody."

Archie the Ant came rushing over.

"Stay here by this crumb while I climb the table leg." Andy ordered as he



started climbing. He climbed up, up, up and then upside down under the edge and then over on to the top

"Wow!" was all he could say as the moonlight fell onto a lovely, delicious, scrumptious cake that lay on the table. Mrs. Missionary was a good cook and strawberry cake was her speciality.

"Hurrah!" shouted Andy, "Archie, there is enough cake for everyone. Take that crumb back to prove how nice it is and I'll follow you with a piece from off the table. I'll bring it back home."

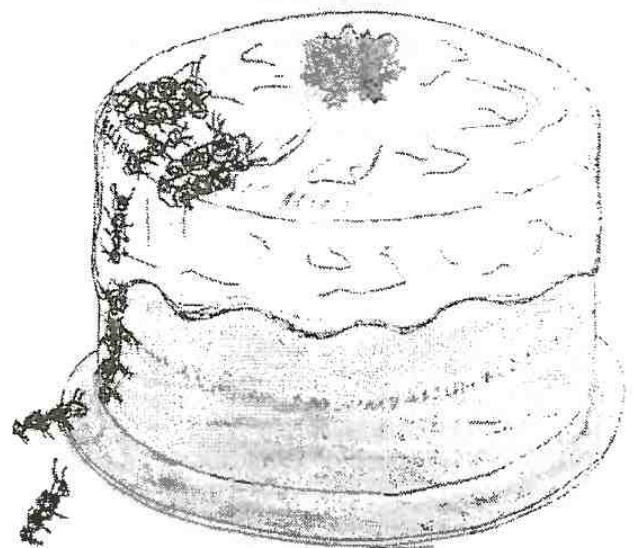
All this took Andy a long time because every time he saw another ant he would stop, put down the piece of cake and say, "Here, have a nibble. Nice isn't it? There's enough for everybody on the table top." Then he would pick up his crumb and the other ant would rush off towards the table to share in the cake.

By the time Andy had set off to return to

the table to fetch a second piece of cake, he was part of a long queue of ants heading for the cake.

All along the way he met other ants coming with pieces of cake. These ants would also stop and say, "Have a taste. There's lots more. It's on the top of the table."

In the Chapel service the next day, the Missionary held up the remains of the lovely strawberry cake, "Let this be a lesson to us" he said. "When Andy and his friends find something worthwhile they don't keep it to themselves. They tell each other so that they all can share in it. He went on, "These are great days, days of glad news: news about a Saviour, Jesus, who will forgive us all our sins. Let us share this with one another. Let us tell it to others. These are days of the Good News and we do wrong if we keep quiet. Andy the Ant shared his good news, let us share ours too, just like Jesus said we must."



Update on Thelma Barberton in Portugal

Thelma Barberton has been living in Fontao, Portugal, for just over a year with her mum and sister. Fontao is a small village on the slopes of the 'Serra da Estrela', and just below the 'Torre' which is the highest peak in mainland Portugal. There were only four people living here during the winter - Thelma, her mum and sister, as well as an 82 year old Portuguese gentleman. During the summer months there are usually eight people living in the village. On the question "Why?", Thelma's answer is "Why not?". They were looking for mountains, rivers, a place to grow food and somewhere affordable. Portugal seemed like a good choice. It is definitely an adventure living in Fontao. Although a change in circumstances means that the adventure in Portugal will soon come to an end, it will be continued as an entirely new adventure in Scotland.



*Clockwise from top left:
The village of Fontao;
Thelma carrying pine trees from the forest to make poles;
Thelma carrying mulch for the vegetable garden;
Fontao in the winter;
An aerial view of the vegetable garden*



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Suite #3 Elma Centre.

183 Pienaar Drive

Meyerspark 0184

OH, WORSHIP THE KING

Oh, worship the King, all glorious above,
Oh, gratefully sing His pow'r and His love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

Oh, tell of His might, oh, sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

*Words written in 1833 by Robert Grant (1779-1838). This hymn
was written after Grant read William Kethe's (ca. 1559-1594)
translation of Psalm 104 in a 1571 psalm book.*