

LIFE@central

December 2016

Central Baptist Church, Pretoria





PASTOR'S CORNER

by Charles de Kiewit [Senior Pastor]

Dear Friends

It would be an understatement to say that National leadership has dominated conversation and news in recent days. On the international front we have had constant reaction and opinion about the US election and the merits and demerits of each of the candidates.

At home here in SA we have had more than our fair share of exposure to headlines, overload on social media and probably far too many conversations in our homes and amongst our friends.

Internationally and locally much of the conversation has been critical in nature. We are concerned about the quality of leadership on offer on the world stage as well as in our own backyard.

The flaws we are concerned about include: lack of integrity, corruption, self-enrichment, exploitation of the poor, state capture, lack of courage, inefficiency, arrogance, nepotism, poor service delivery, dishonesty, injustice, laziness, disregard for the rule of law... the list probably can be extended to many other concerns.

How do we Christians respond to this situation?

We must pray for those in authority (1 Timothy 2v1-3); we must be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God (Romans 13:1); like John the Baptist we must courageously speak out against all evil and unrighteousness (John 14v4); we must live

as those who know that our citizenship is not on earth but in heaven (Philippians 3v20); like Jesus we need to run with endurance the race set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2).

These and more are responses we must give ourselves to as we seek to live lives that are worthy of our Lord.

There is one response that has been weighing heavily on me in recent days that I would like to elaborate on. It is doing what Jesus challenged the Pharisees to do in **Matthew 7:3**:

Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

It is the response of personal holiness.

In every instance of criticism I (we) must have the courage to look at ourselves, our family and our church to see if we are not being blinded by "a log of sin" in our own eyes; in this way grieving the Spirit of God and thus keeping us from pleasing the Lord.

Some examples may include; criticising government leaders of corruption and yet not paying Caesar what is due to Caesar or refusing to pay etolls; having a lot to say (and rightly so) about those who support abortion and yet having no concern for thousands of orphans on our doorstep; hating the way taxi drivers behave on the streets and pavements of our country and yet disregarding traffic laws ourselves; despising the widespread corruption and yet slipping a R100 note to a traffic officer; critical of sex offenders and promiscuous society and yet never taking a minute to share the gospel with anyone; complaining about arrogant leaders and yet think ourselves better than others...

It is a wonderful blessing to be a recipient of the grace of God. But as those who have had a debt of sin cancelled and our status changes to children of God we need to pursue holy living.

May our Lord continue to sanctify each one of us

to the glory of His name. As you celebrate and reflect on the meaning of Christmas this year will you along with me consider how we can spur one another on in love and good deeds? Let us live and walk as Jesus did.

2 Peter 3:10: *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

Our hope must be in God and not in men.

Charles

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Saviour, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

CARING MINISTRY

by Lukie Dercksen [Care Pastor]



Serving Together

It is wonderful to see so many people serving at Central. People from all walks of life sacrificing time, comfort and money to serve God through His Church. This is why we were created. To labour for Him and because of Him, and labour we must. We labour with joy because we are the chosen of Almighty God. We get to serve in the Lord's army. What an absolute privilege.

Let us not waste time with things that have no eternal value. We are children of the Most High. Like those who have gone before us, we lay down our lives for our Father and King.

We teach a class, we take up the offering, we wash dishes, we pour coffee, we pack food parcels, we greet people at the door, we show someone where the bathroom is, we play bass guitar, we pray before the service, we preach, we have conversations with people we don't know, we go out into homes proclaiming the gospel, we make copies, we set up communion to name a few. We live to serve.

To everyone who has worked so hard this year at Central. Thank you. We praise God for you. To those who walked the extra mile. May God bless you.

But ... There's still a lot to do. Maybe you feel that your boat is just floating around without direction. We can help to find your place, your direction at Central. Never underestimate what God can do through you. There is a special place and God has given each of us a special gift to serve Him with. Talk to us.

It's truly an honour to serve with you. Shoulder to shoulder we stand.

Glory to God. All to Jesus I surrender!

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.



Can you SWIM?

by Ann Onimous

When our daughter was a teenager, her need for pocket money exceeded our ability to provide for it. When the opportunity arose for her to do a swimming instructor's course, she grabbed it. For the rest of her high school years, and during tertiary studies, she earned her own pocket money as part time swimming teacher at various swimming schools.

Now married and the mother of small children, the general pressures of life and a demanding job has so far prevented her from teaching her own children to swim. So I was quite amused to hear her eldest tell someone: "Of course I can swim – my Mom used to be a swimming teacher!"

I was still chuckling over this, when it suddenly struck me: that was exactly the way I used to view my salvation. For years I thought that going to church, trying to live a 'good' life, and

especially my missionary ancestors, was my gateway to heaven.

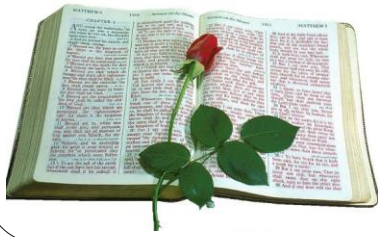
It was only when I was lying awake one dark night, in a cold sweat of fear of eternal damnation, that God revealed the fact to me: only through Jesus! Only by putting my trust and faith in Him, will I enter heaven and be with Him forever.

So, if you can't swim, you can watch Chad le Clos win medals, you can read books on swimming, you can buy your swimwear, but if you don't get into the water, you will never learn to swim.

The same goes for salvation. You can attend church, read spiritual books, do good deeds, spend all your money on the poor. But: until you put your faith in Jesus, and His blood spilled for you on Calvary, you're lost!

*Jesus answered,
"I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me."*

John 6:14



WOMEN'S VALUE

Compiled by Natasha Dercksen

A letter from Carol

My Central Friends

If you are reading this article now, then you are blessed to be one who can stand at the end of 2016 and thank God for keeping you through this past year.

It might not have been the easiest of years. Maybe you have lost a family member or a dear friend, possibly you have had bad news, how about difficult working conditions? It could be you have experienced family challenges or personal hardships.

2016 could have been one of the best years of your life so far. You might have married, or God could have given you a new addition to your family. Possibly it has been a prosperous year for you or even just a happy year where everything has gone just right for you.

Whatever kind of year you have experienced, you can be sure, that as God promised, He has been with you every minute of every day of 2016.



Be strong and courageous.
For the Lord your God goes with you:
He will never leave you nor forsake you.
Deuteronomy 31:6

However we should never presume that verse over ourselves. Instead, we need to thank the Lord for his good mercy and undeserved grace that He never leaves us – good times and challenging times.

Looking forward to 2017 – King's Rubies are in for a feast of a year. But before we talk about the food, let's meditate a little over the drink (spiritually speaking it's actually is the same as the food)

Ephesians 5:18

"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ"

From Alive in Christ – Stuart Olyott ...

How are we to live the Christian life? - "Be filled with the Spirit". But how do we get filled?

Well how does a person get drunk? He drinks and drinks and drinks again, until what he has drunk takes control.

The same principal applies with our spiritual life. We must drink spiritual things (God's Word) until we are under the Spirit's influence.

It is the Lord Jesus Christ who gives us the Spirit, this is what he said in

John 7:37-39

"If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."



If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink...

However, this is only for those who believe in the Holy Spirit and have received Him.

Being constantly filled with the Spirit means that we should be constantly drinking. We are to go to Christ and drink of Him. What does that mean, how do we do that?

We do this in prayer, listening to Biblical preaching, studying God's Word for ourselves, engaging in Christian fellowship, meeting around the Lord's Table, and in fact, in every form of spiritual and devotional exercise. As the Spirit does His work through these means, we will become more spiritual women and we become drunk with the Holy Spirit completely controlling us.

In this wicked world is there anything more striking and pleasant than seeing women walking day after day with God? This experience can be yours.

At King's Rubies in 2017 we will offer you drink (and food) to help you succumb totally to God's Spirit. We will offer you a feast.

Our theme for 2017 is "Feasting at His Table". Our menu is as follows:-

• Soul Food

(18th February – 08h30)



• Pamper me with Chocolates

(22nd April – 15h00)



• Spud-Tacular

(17th June – 12h00)



• When Life gives you Lemons

(19th August – 15h00)



• Strawberry Shortcake

(21st October – 10h00)



We will make place for you at the table – this is your official invitation to join in the Feast at King's Rubies this year.

December is the time of year when there is a lot of feasting and drinking. May I encourage you to keep feasting and drinking from God's Holy Word. Know His Holy presence, conduct your life so as not to shame His Holy Name. Don't neglect your daily spiritual meal. God doesn't take holidays, He will remain with you, never leaving you. May you live in His presence and enjoy wholesome food this Christmas season.

My prayer is that you and your family enjoy good health through this next year.

Carol

Letting God have control

by Prosina Ditshego

It is amazing how God plans our lives. He knows when we are born, where we will live, whom we will marry, He knows it all.

I was privileged to be raised in a family to whom Christ was, is and will be the foundation. Sundays for us was a day of worship, my parents taught us the principles of putting God first in whatever we do.

All that got to be tested after I matriculated, as the Bible says in 1 Peter 1:7. For the first time being away from home, I was a student at the Pretoria Technikon, staying in a flat in Arcadia. The nearest church next to my flat was Central Baptist. I attended services there for some time,



Prosina Ditshego

but as a young woman being away from home, one gets tempted to do all sorts of things, but God loved me so much that I was met by a group of ladies fired-up for Jesus who were doing 'door knocking', inviting people to church. They studied the Bible with me and I got convicted by what

Christ had done for me and got baptised. As a youth I devoted most of my time in Bible studies with people being fully committed to church.

But life goes on. I got married and God brought me back to Central Baptist Church which became our spiritual home as a family. I have learned so much that through it all God has been by my side, teaching, rebuking, correcting and training me in righteousness through His word while facing life's challenges.

Recently my mum was ill and in so much pain she felt she could die and that got to me. It was like my faith is being refined through fire and I got to be tested how much I really trusted God in my life. It is easy to say we trust God when things look okay and life being smooth, but when trouble comes God allows you to go through the challenges because He trusts you enough to overcome them. During that time it looks as if God is silent but actually He is working behind the scenes. I have learned that even if I say many words and cry out loud, but have not surrendered everything to God, it is futile. I have learned that as Christians when we want things, we sometimes think we can assist God by getting them. God is God, He is the Lord and does not need our help, all we need is to let Him be God in our lives. In all that my mum was healed and my faith was lifted higher and for that I will forever give Him praise for He is a faithful God.

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith - more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire - may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:6-7

King's Rubies

2017

King's Rubies plan to have a "Spud-tacular" program whereby ladies will be pampered with chocolates and "Soul-food". "When life gives you lemons", we will enjoy "Strawberry shortcake" instead. On 17 February at 8:30 at the Arcadia campus King's Rubies will meet with a spicy topic: "Soul-food". Don't miss our meeting at Arcadia on 22 April 2017 where we will be pampered with chocolates and have our annual baby shower. During the baby shower we collect stock to give out to our new babies and mummies during the year. On 17 June 2017 at 12:00 at the Arcadia campus we will have a "Spud-tacular" time. Ladies don't miss this lunch, it is going to be a pleasant day. At The Hill on 19 August 2017 we will meet for an afternoon tea at 15:00 to discuss the topic:



"When life gives you lemons". We will gather for the last time in 2017 on 21 October at 10:00 at the Arcadia Campus with "Strawberry Shortcake" as the theme. Ladies, young and old, please join us for these delicious themes.



ADULTS ABLAZE at The Hill

On the photo is a "Mega Burger" built by Anita during a Friday night evening at The Hill where the *Adults Ablaze* group meet.

All adults are welcome to join us on a Friday night at The Hill campus for fellowship.

We usually have a bring and share dessert or a bring and share meal evening at least once a term.

LIVES & TIMES @CENTRAL

Children



Abigail Piet - September 2016



Grace Kgalaki - June 2016

Micah James Jubber - September 2016





*Stephan Kotze after his operation
- October 2016*



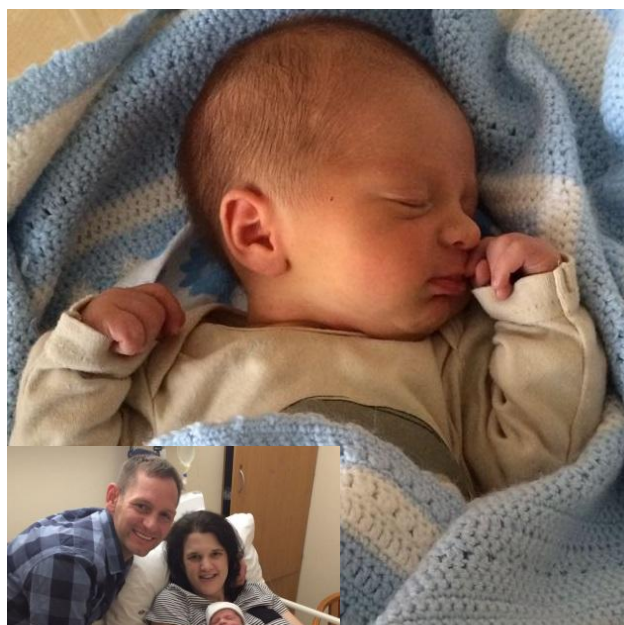
Caleb Timothy van Rensburg's dedication - July 2016



Jacques Kaseke - July 2016



*Isabella Sophia
Robbins
- August 2016*



*Finn Graham
Daniel Salzwedel
- November 2016*

Weddings



Larry and Lauren Schmidt - June 2016



Beast and Sli - September 2016

*Carlos
and
Elaine
Cardosa
- October
2016*



Piet and Sarah - October 2016



*Thato and
Nthabiseng
Mphahlele
- August
2016*



*Henk and
Annie Crafford
- September 2016*



Family



Barbara Quesnell's 70th - July 2016

*The
Robbins
family
- September
2016*



Engagements



*David Smith
and
Michelle Mills
- November 2016*



*Simon Duim and
Vanessa Kopper - August 2016*



*Warwick Heffer and
Elodie le Grange - July 2016*

PRAISE THE SAVIOUR, YE WHO KNOW HIM!

Praise the Saviour, ye who know Him!
Who can tell how much we owe Him?
Gladly let us render to Him
All we have and are.

Jesus is the Name that charms us,
He for conflict fits and arms us;
Nothing moves and nothing harms us
While we trust in Him.

Trust in Him, ye saints, forever,
He is faithful, changing never;
Neither force nor guile can sever
Those He loves from Him.

Keep us, Lord, O keep us cleaving
To Thyself, and still believing,
Till the hour of our receiving
Promised joys with Thee.

Words written by Thomas Kelly (1769-1855).

Thomas Kelly was an Irishman through and through, from Kellywattle, Ireland. He studied to be a lawyer like his father, but in the process began to read Christian doctrine. Under conviction of sin, he struggled to find peace with God through fasting and asceticism, but it didn't work. Eventually, he trusted Jesus Christ for the free gift of salvation through faith. He was ordained a minister in the established church, but because of his strong views on salvation by

grace, he moved on to serve in independent chapels. It is said that most of his hymns were focused on Jesus Christ, praising Him for His work on the cross and the glories of heaven. In a way, Kelly writes simply, and yet because his rhyme schemes are unusual, the words become more memorable. This hymn is typical of Kelly, beginning with grateful praise to his Saviour and ending with a meditation on heaven. From *Great Songs of Faith* by Brown & Norton.

(<https://www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/h/161>)

Bethesda Outreach Newsletter



Raised to Praise

Bethesda Outreach

November 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*

- Tsholo's birthday 7 November
- Mabel's birthday 8 November
- GMS' birthday 12 November
- Banele's Birthday 13 November

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

- Memphis Craig 21 November
- Andrew Dodd & Nicholas' birthday 22 November
- Bronte's birthday 25 November
- Albert's birthday 27 November

Elephants????!! Whaaaat? Here?

On our property?? No way!

You can imagine the first conversation we had when finding out that **5 elephants** from the neighboring game reserve had broken through our fences! They had enjoyed a glorious night of pushing down trees, fertilizing the property, scaring the dogs, and munching trees in our orchard. And even more



astounding, not a single person on the property (60+ people) heard or saw them the first night. Talk about silent giants!

Believe it or not, this continued for 6 out of the next 7 nights as well as one additional visit about a month later. It was shocking, exciting, and very interesting. I do think that the maintenance guys grew weary of repairing fences over and over. Our fences took a beating and are still being held up in some places by random bits of wire, but we are thanking the Lord that no one was hurt, and no serious damage took place to property or buildings.

So.....the next time you visit Bethesda, you just never know what might happen next!

BOARD MEETINGS

2016

The 2016 Annual General Board meetings went very well. Four new board members were voted in to bring greater diversity and expertise to the group who have already done so much to bring godly leadership to Bethesda.

GRADUATE REUNION

One of the highlights of the AGM week was a reunion with some of the kids who have graduated out of Bethesda. We wanted to communicate to them how proud we are of them, hear more about their experience while they grew up at Bethesda and hear how they are doing now. We also wanted to encourage them by renewing relationships and telling them how much we love them and would still like to be part of their lives.

Please continue pray for these young adults



Bethesda Outreach Newsletter



Bethesda 2016 Christmas Project



Water for Our Village

This past year has been difficult to provide sufficient water for our village's children and families, especially during the dry seasons. In order to provide an adequate water resource to our village, we will need to dig two new boreholes (or wells). Doing so will ensure our village is not dependent on unreliable municipal water.

Community Orphan Homes

One way for Bethesda to influence more orphans is through the development of community based homes in partnership with area churches. The funds we collect will help us provide houses for Bethesda orphan care families in the surrounding communities.

GOAL:
\$40,000

Donate today to help us reach more children!

Give online at www.bethesdaoutreach.org
or mail to Bethesda Outreach, PO Box 2333 West Lafayette, IN 47996

SA Banking Details:

Temba Bethesda Outreach, Standard Bank, Brooklyn 011245, Account #011818743

Indicate that it is for "Christmas 2016"

***We are looking forward to seeing how God
supplies for each of these needs.***

Perhaps He will use YOU in some way!

***Thank you for your love, prayers and
continuing support.***

The Bethesda staff and families thank you!

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.

Billy, the Bee

The Lord Jesus Himself said, "There is more happiness in giving than in receiving."

Acts 20:35

Everyone was very excited on the Mission Station in Swaziland – "Christmas is coming" shouted Andy the Ant, "and my mother has promised me a toy-grader and a concrete mixer."

"I'm getting a new train." Cyril the Caterpillar joined in happily.

"I'm getting a doll that can open and shut her eyes." said Shirley the Spider excitedly.

"I've asked for a new pram for my doll." added Minnie the Miggie.

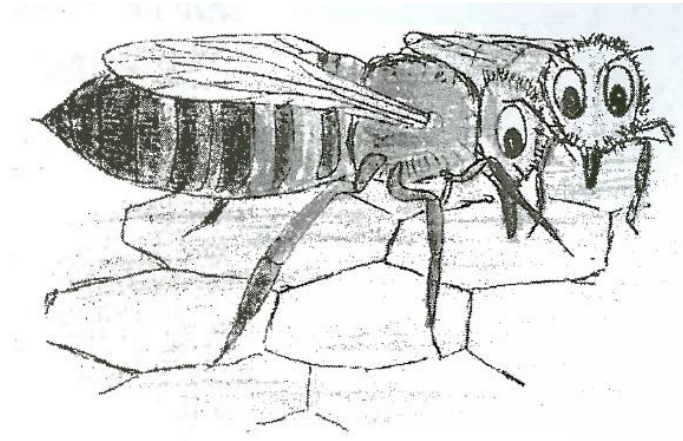
"You are very silent, Billy." said Andy to Billy the Bee. "Don't bees get Christmas presents?"

"Yes, we do," Billy replied, "but this year I have been thinking of the words of the Lord Jesus, that it is better to give than

to receive. So I've decided to give things this Christmas and see if that is true."

"What are you giving, Billy? Have you some idea in mind?" asked Andy with interest.

Billy looked around at the others who had stopped chattering and were waiting for his answer. "Well," said Billy after a while, "I have decided that I will work much harder so that I can carry far more pollen from flower to flower. Also, I'm giving as much honey as possible away. I've been doing it for a few days now, and do you know, Andy, I'm already enjoying it. Last year I got a toy car and lots of other things but you soon get tired of 'got' things. Now that I am giving I don't seem to get tired of it at all."



All the other insects howled with laughter and Billy blushed. "We prefer to get, thank you!" they yelled but Andy walked away thoughtfully. "The Bible does say that it is more fun to give. Maybe I should give it a try as well."

The next day Andy arrived late at the field where all the insects and little things had gathered. He arrived late, but he was whistling. "Why are you late?" several of them wanted to know, "and why are you so happy?" as if it was wrong to be happy!

"Well," began Andy. "You know this business about getting instead of giving for Christmas that Billy was talking about?"

"A lot of nonsense." interrupted Barney the Bullfrog with a croak.

"No, I think you are wrong, Barney." Andy replied and then went on, "I've given it a try. When I got home yesterday, I decided to help my mom clean up for a change. She was so glad and thankful that it made me glad. Then I decided to collect extra food for an hour a day for the widow ant down the road, that's why I'm late. She was

so grateful that I have been whistling ever since."

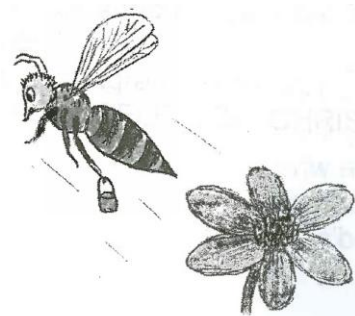
Well, to cut a long story short, after a lot of discussion and argument the insects and little things decided that they, too, would like to give this idea a try. Barney formed a Bullfrog Band and they went visiting the old-folk to sing carols to them. Sally and Shirley Spider spun beautiful blankets for the poor. All the bees joined Billy in a 'more-honey-for-all' campaign and the ants formed a 'hunt-for-food-for-the-poor' team. Even old Wilbur the Worm decided he'd help too. He and his friends promised only to eat the peaches and plums when they had fallen to the ground and were already bad!

So the insects were a very busy lot with all their 'giving' and they only saw one another again the day after Christmas. You could see the happiness glowing on their faces.

"I got a grader for Christmas," said Andy, "but I got a lot more fun out of giving to others than I'll ever get from the grader."

All the others agreed with him.

TRY IT YOURSELF OVER CHRISTMAS



SMALL FRY

@TheHill





KiNGDOM KiDS

— @Arcadia —



The two to four year old Kingdom Kids class at Arcadia

¹⁰ For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, especially of those who believe. ¹¹ Command and teach these things.

1 Timothy 4:10-11



Black Cherry Management (Pty) Ltd



Catering & Events

We make Muffins, Cupcakes, Cakes and so much more, for any occasion!

Plain Muffins R5-00 each (Min 12 – R55 p/doz)
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Frosted Muffins R6-00 each (Min 12 – R70 p/doz)
(Chocolate, Rainbow, Cappuccino, Caramel, Strawberry, Lemon, Orange)

Also available; Savoury Cheese or Corn Muffins, Blue Berry, Red Velvet, Carrot & Pecan, Apple & Walnuts,
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