

July 2011

life at CENTRAL

Central Baptist Church, Pretoria

life@central.org.za

In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Eph 2: 21-22



So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.

Nehemiah 4:6



PASTOR'S CORNER

Senior Pastor: Charles de Kiewit



Dear friends

We can so easily set goals and targets without reviewing and assessing how we have done. Last year we set the challenge from **Joshua 1, verse 9**, to ***be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.***

How are we doing? What has God unfolded to us over these first 6 months of the year? Have there been challenges before us or decisions and actions requiring strength and courage.

From my view of things there certainly have been challenges for us as a church as well as for some of our fellow believers. The 2011 / 12 budget was set as one of the challenges. In the first 2 months we were way behind but then wonderfully by the end of the first quarter income had exceeded budget. God is indeed good to us.

The church plant in the east has also had numerous challenges. The rezoning process has not been easy. Rezoning has been approved but

subject to a long list of requirements that need to be met. Initial estimates of what the project will cost have more than doubled. These matters continue to require bold decisions. We constantly need to be looking to God for wisdom, trusting Him for that which humanly speaking is not possible.

Some of you have faced and are facing challenging illnesses or other hardships. It is good to see believers trusting God in the midst of these trials.

I'm sure there are instances we have not acted boldly or courageously. And yet in spite of this God continues to show His grace and goodness to us. As believers it is a wonderful thing to know that ***God has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing...***

Ephesians 1, verse 3.

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel and may God continue to use us for His name sake.

Charles

LIFE at CENTRAL MAGAZINE

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

Past editions (2006 to 2010) are also available.

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Kim Gush, Wambui Gititu and Daniel Salzwedel

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CARING MINISTRY

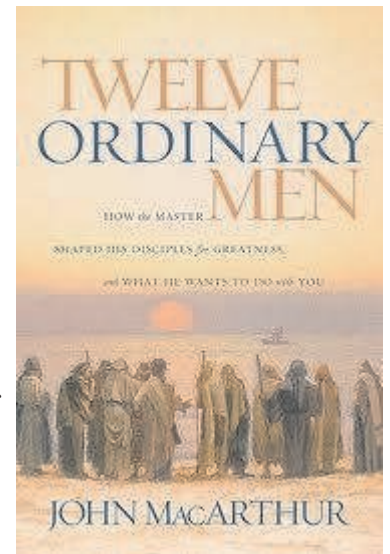
by Pastor Eric Robbins



BEING A QUIET PERSONAL WITNESS

Recently at our Home Group, we had a most challenging discussion from John MacArthur's book "Twelve Ordinary Men", looking at the life and character of Jesus' disciple Andrew.

Although Andrew was a quiet fellow and normally very much in the background, he was the first disciple to be called by Jesus. He then immediately introduced his more dominant brother Peter to Christ. In fact almost every time we read of Andrew in scripture, he is introducing others to Jesus. He seems to have had the right heart for quiet background ministry. He did not seek to be the centre of attention yet at the same time did not resent those who laboured in the limelight. Andrew was happy to do what he could with the gifts he had, but also allowed others, gifted in other ways, to do likewise.



Andrew also seems to have had a special eye for the value of individual people. His special passion was that of personal evangelism. Most time we see him, he is introducing others to Christ, his brother Peter, the boy with the loaves and fish, and a group of Greek enquirers in John chapter 12. The most effective kind of evangelism often takes place at an individual or personal level.

When we were on leave Ros and I met a newly married couple who had just returned from honeymoon. They spoke of how God had given them opportunities to witness during those wonderful first few weeks together. They had made it their prayer that God would send them people they could introduce to Christ and the result was some amazing stories.

Even when God calls you to do bigger things in the limelight there can surely be no greater calling than that of being a "quiet personal witness".

Eric

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect -- 1 Peter 3:15



WOMEN'S VALUE

A letter from Carol

Hello Friends

Henri Nouwen once said

"... every time we decide to be grateful it will be easier to see new things to be grateful for. Gratitude begets gratitude, just as love begets love"

How true this is! I certainly find that when I get into that 'grumbling groove' it takes a lot of effort to get out.

The key word is **effort** – a conscious effort, a decision to stop being negative and look around to find things to be grateful for. When I do that, my world changes colour and I begin to see everything in a more positive light.

William Law an 18th century Anglican asks this question:-

"Would you know who is the greatest saint in the world?"

Think about that, what would your answer be?

This was his fascinating answer ...

"It is not he who prays most or fasts most. It is not he who gives the most money ... but it is he who is always thankful to God, who wills everything that God wills, and who receives everything as an instance of God's goodness and has a heart always ready to praise God for it"

I am certainly still far from 'sainthood'.

1 Chronicles 16:8 encourages us to **"give thanks to the Lord"** and so does Ephesians 5:20 and 1 Thessalonians 5:18 **"give thanks in all circumstances"**

As Christians we need to cultivate a view of God's goodness in which we believe that He *can* work through all things, so even when things look bad, we must find something to be thankful for.

God deserves our thankfulness doesn't He? However, He doesn't want thankfulness that comes out of duty or obligation, rather it needs to be an attitude which keeps moving on the pathway of spiritual growth, even when the climb is steep and the trail rough.

If we don't keep moving in a grateful attitude we will become stuck in that 'bitter groove'.

Some steps to cultivate a thankful heart from an author, Gary Thomas:-

- **Recognise the danger of not giving thanks.**

It's as dangerous for a Christian not to give thanks as it is for a driver to leave her seat belt unfastened.

If we don't adopt thankfulness, we undermine our own spiritual stability by questioning whether God is, after all, a loving Father. The difficulty of our situation and even the frustration of relatively minor nuisances can cloud our spiritual vision and tempt us to reconsider spiritual absolutes that we know are true.

- **Arm yourself with Bible verses that call you to give thanks.** It's the Word of God that renews our mind and directs it to positive thinking. We might not be able to control our circumstances but we can control the lens through which we view them.

- **Start by thanking God for the easy things,** this helps redirect your focus. There comes a time when thinking about a problem loses its constructive nature and becomes fretting. Take a break from your relatively small world and set your mind on higher things.

- **Thank God for the way He has used difficult things in the past to build you up in the faith and make you a stronger person.**



WOMEN'S VALUE

UPDATES... by Lana Pelsner

• **Thank God for what He is doing through the hard things in your life today.** Remember there is a difference between thanking God FOR the difficult things and thanking God IN the difficult things – Romans 8:28-29.

Virtually any circumstance – however painful or pleasant, can be used by God to shape the character of Christ in us, and it is for that shaping that we can be thankful.

• **Practice giving thanks.** Giving thanks is a discipline, an act of my will, I must choose to dwell on good things, on the higher qualities of my invisible but ever-present Father. I must wait for God to work out His best plans for me.

Gary Thomas ...

“For many of us, thankfulness starts out sounding shallow and trite. But the truth is, it leads us into a deeper journey with God than we imagined, taking us down to the core reason why we are here: is it to fulfil our own purpose for living – or His?”

May we all learn this discipline and grow in our thankfulness to God not out of duty but rather from a heart overflowing with recognition of the great and awesome God we serve.

Luv Carol

My article was taken from the book entitled “Not the End but the Road” by Gary L. Thomas



“Thou shalt call His name Jesus – for He shall save His people from their sins....”

Matt 1:21

Let us celebrate the Name of Jesus!

HIS NAME IS JESUS

(Max Lucado)

His birth

He could hold the universe in His palm
But gave it up to float
In the womb of a maiden
Christ became one of us
and He did so to redeem all of us

His mission

Jesus - The man..
Who spoke with such thunderous authority
And loved with such childlike humility
The life of Jesus Christ
Is a message of hope
A message of mercy
A message of life in a dark world

His death

Jesus - The pain that held the Universe
Took the nail of a soldier
On the eve of the cross
Jesus made His decision
He would rather
Go to hell for you
Than go to Heaven without you

His resurrection

Jesus - The moment He removed the stone
He removed all reason for doubt
Christ's resurrection
is an exploding flare
announcing to all sincere seekers
that it is safe to believe



WOMEN'S VALUE

THE U IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God stuck U in the name of His Son...

And each time U pray, U'll see it's true,
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,
And this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His Upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Go into the world and tell them it's true
That I love them all - Just like I love U."

So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do,
He'd like them to know,

But it all starts with U.

SA MAP

A father wanted to read a magazine but was being bothered by his little girl. She wanted to know what South Africa looked like. Finally, he tore a sheet out of his new magazine on which was printed the map of the country. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to her and said, 'Go into the other room and see if you can put this together. This will show you our whole country today. After a few minutes, she returned and handed him the map, correctly fitted and taped together. The father was surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly. 'Oh,' she said, 'on the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got all of Jesus back where He belonged, then our country just came together!'

THE MEASURE

Let the grace of the Lord be the measure of your sufficiency
Let the peace of the Lord be the measure of your quietness
Let the power of the Lord be the measure of your strength
Let the goodness of the Lord be the measure of your contentment
Let the love of the Lord be the measure of your service
Let the faithfulness of the Lord be the measure of your Trust
Let the beauty of the Lord be the measure of your worship
Let the fullness of the Lord be the measure of your joy
Let the sovereignty of the lord be the measure of your confidence
Let the promises of the Lord be the measure of your expectations
Let the coming of the Lord be the measure of your hope

You are my portion, O Lord Psalm 119:57



WOMEN'S VALUE

In the kitchen

Vegetable Soup recipe

Every country has its own vegetable soup and South Africa is no exception. So when the winter's days are short and nights are long and cold - this soup should keep you going.

Ingredients

180 g soup mix of lentils, oats, barley and peas (1 c)
 4 litres water (16 c)
 4 pieces of shin with marrow
 2 large carrots
 2 large potatoes
 1 large onion
 1 tin (410g) whole peeled tomatoes
 100g chopped celery (1 c)
 100g broken spaghetti (1 c)
 25 ml salt (5 t)
 20 ml Worcestershire sauce (4 t)
 1 ml curry powder (1/4)
 A pinch of pepper
 Finely chopped parsley



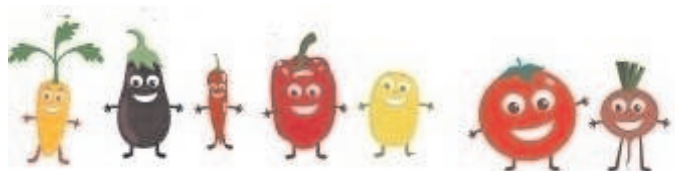
Instructions on how to make it

Soak the soup mix in the water for an hour or so. Add the soup meat and cook it until tender. Spoon out the meat. Peel the carrots and grate coarsely. Peel and halve the potatoes. Peel and chop the onion. Cut the tomatoes. Add the carrots, potatoes, onions, tomatoes with their juice and the celery to the soup mix and boil until the potatoes are soft.

Remove the potatoes from the soup and add the spaghetti, salt, Worcestershire sauce, curry powder and pepper. Boil until the spaghetti is done.

Mash the potatoes. Cut up the meat and, together with the mashed potatoes, add to the soup. Boil till it is well blended. Sprinkle the soup with a little parsley and serve hot.

Makes 4 litres (16 cups) of soup.



PRAYER

Let us pray.....

In everyday life
 Give me, amidst the confusion
 of my day,
 the calmness of the everlasting
 hills.
 Break the tension of my nerves
 and muscles
 with the soothing music of
 singing streams
 that live in my memory.
 Help me to know
 the magical restorative power of
 sleep.
 Teach me the art of taking
 minute vacations
 of slowing down to look at a
 flower,
 to chat to a friend,
 to pat a dog,
 to read a few lines from a good
 book.
 Slow me down, Lord,
 and inspire me to send my roots
 deep
 into the soil of life's enduring
 values
 that I may grow
 toward the stars of my greater
 destiny.

W. E. Sangster

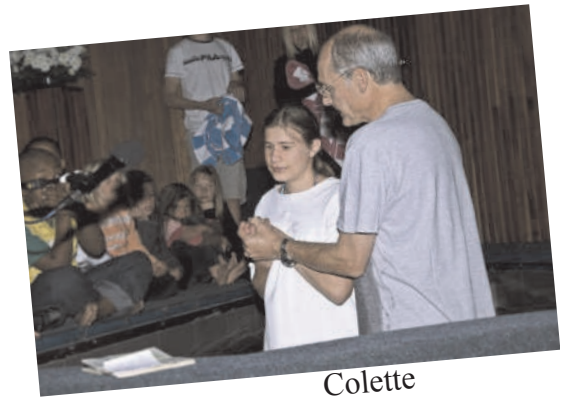


BAPTISMS



Dorcas

20th of May
2011
Congratulations
and blessings to
those who were
baptised!
(photos from 10.30
service)



Colette

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinth 5:17



Ipeleng

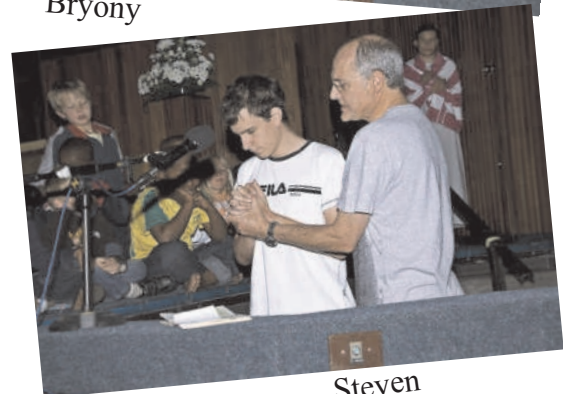
Bryony Midgley
Colette Rencken
Davina Diepering
Dorcas Rakgalakane
Ipeleng Mathebula
Madeleine Fombad
Mathias Addis
Mnelisi Gasa
Rapule Kgalaki
Steven Rencken
Tosah Fombad



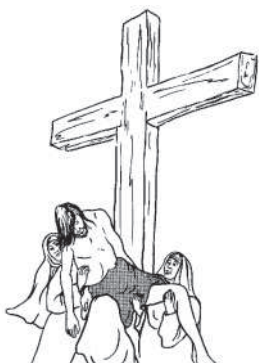
Bryony



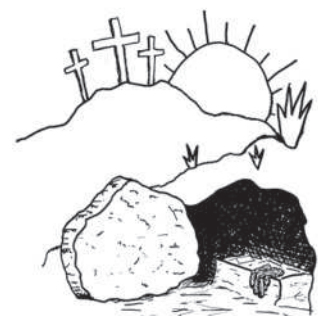
Mathias



Steven



Davina



He is not here; for He is risen, as He said.
Come, see the place where the Lord lay.
Matthew 28:6

An update and prayer requests from Lauren in Central Asia

A few weeks ago I came back from distributing health booklets, and the taxi stopped very close to my friend Ruth's house. I decided to go and visit her as I hadn't seen her for a long time. It turned out that it was her 3 year old's birthday together with her brother, Harry's birthday. I offered to go with her to visit her brother and carry the cake :-)

At her brother's house, when her brother was out of the house, I noticed that almost everyone in the room was a believers or a seekers!
Ruth's Dad, Samuel, is a professor and has written many books. He has been quite bold in sharing with his friend who Jesus is and praying in Jesus' name. He meets every week with one of our team mates. His wife is doing seeker's lessons every week with Ruth's mom, and discipleship lessons with Ruth. Hannah, Ruth's sister in law, has made a commitment and is growing...

I visited Hannah again. It was lovely to chat with her, read a bit of a study that she has been doing with another friend, play a bit of throw and catch with her 2 year old, and pray with her. This time she prayed as well, whereas before, she has been too shy to do that, and it was such a blessing to me. She is also reading her bible more openly now, though her husband hasn't yet asked her what she is reading.

Please pray for this extended family!

One of my prayers is that before Harry's birthday next year, he will come to believe in Jesus.

Ruth's husband does not like her going to church and has been rather difficult.

Pray for him also to believe!

Pray that Samuel may have wisdom as to how to lead his family in worship.

Pray for the sons of the family to come into a living relationship with Jesus!

Pray for members of our team to know how to discipleship and lead this family.

May God transform this family and use them to bring many more to Himself!



*Matthew 7:7
"Ask and it will be given to you;
seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you."*

PRAYER

For other people.....

Make me notice the stains when people get spilled on.

Make me care about the slum child downtown, the misfit at work, the people crammed into the mental hospital, the men, women, and youth behind bars.

Jar my complacency; expose my excuses; get me involved in the life of my community, and give me integrity once more.

Robert Raines

Investing in Souls and not in Stocks

by Wambui Gititu

"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose"

Jim Elliot, Missionary Martyr

That one can go to school, get a degree in B.Com Investment Management, forsake a promising exciting career in 'Egoli' in order to go into missions where the assurance of a monthly salary is not a guarantee would not make sense to many. For Olefile Samuel Rabolele (Sammy), it made so much sense, and no discouragement from family was going to stop him from serving God as a missionary.

Sammy grew up in Mafikeng in a family of five, studied in Potchefstroom Boys High school before proceeding to the University of Pretoria (Tuks) where he studied investment management. "I grew up in a solid family where my parents dared us to dream big dreams. They believed that we should get a good education and never forget that God is central" Sammy says. As a child he wanted to become a fireman, this changed in high school when the world of venture capital and stocks gripped his heart.

So joining campus to pursue his heart's desire was many steps towards making his dreams of becoming an investment broker a reality. Little did he know that it was in campus that the course of his life would change. "I knew a lot about Jesus and His work on the cross, but I wanted Jesus as Saviour not as my Lord" notes Sammy. So while a first year student, Sammy surrendered his life to God; he has never turned back and has this to say about his journey to where he is today, a missionary with Campus Outreach:

Was the decision to become a missionary an easy one?

No, not when you know it will involve raising financial support. You see my family at home were looking forward to me getting a great job plus most people think I should rather take the job opportunities available instead of raising support. So again no, it was not easy at all.



Mpho and Sammy Rabolele

What did your family think of your 'career' choice?

They were not excited at first, honestly, they are still getting used to the idea 4 years later. I mean they shared my dreams with me, so I understand. But I will say as I have surrendered my life and career to God, He has used that to bring about some surrender in my parents; I have seen my parents and siblings grow in their faith.

So what do your parents say you do?

They know I am a missionary, but pass me off as a pastor most times.

What are the challenges of being a missionary?

For me, it's having other gifts and talents that are not necessarily used within the students' mission field. As a young husband, I have other dreams and hopes to see God made known within the different sectors of our country. The other challenge concerns my life's desire to see missions not just as a job but as worship in my life. I hope that worship would be the end goal in missions. That's why I think all believers need to be missional, because we all are worshippers.

I also dream through the eyes of those I disciple on the campus, that they will go where I will not (making more disciples). The other challenge will

always be financial support, especially in this pioneering time for most Black South Africans; it's definitely a great place to trust God.

What has it cost you to become a missionary?

Financial security, at times family misunderstanding about what I do as opposed to working as a banker or investment broker. On the social front, my wife and I spend most of our time with students. We don't get to be around our peers as much since they are no longer students, plus the fact that we have different schedules from our peers. Yet, when all is said and done, it's no cost at all, to serve like my Saviour did; the cost was heavier for Him. He calls us all (not just missionaries) to join him on the calvary road for His name's sake and glory.

Do you think people see missions as no work at all?

No, they see it as work, but connect it to suffering and even poverty. They don't always see the need for people to be saved, they think more of the mercy needs. I guess it's the stigma that goes with it.

Tell us about your work at Campus Outreach?

My role is that of Campus Director. I oversee the work happening within student's residential halls, making sure that together with the staff we are out sharing the gospel and our lives. Along with that, we endeavour to establish the young believers in their faith through the process of Discipleship.

Do you think Africa has realised its potential to send out missionaries?

Not at all, I don't think we have even begun to scratch the surface, the subject of missions hardly features in family conversations during which children are told about the 10/40 window or the missionary the family is supporting (if any). Some families hardly pray for missions and missionaries. We spend so much time being ministered to, forgetting that we are blessed to be a blessing to others.

What do you think of discipleship in South Africa?

I think it exists very unintentionally through different mentors within the churches. More can definitely be done, believers need to be more missional minded, where we are pouring out our

lives so that others may taste and see that our God is good. There are many passionate young (spiritually young/ not just age wise) believers who need training in sharing their faith, living within a like-minded community, serving others, growing in the knowledge of the word...etc. so we need disciplers.

You recently got married, how is that going?

It's awesome, Mpho is the best decision I have made since my decision to follow Christ when I was in my 1st year. She is also the most missional decision I have made. She has the same desire I have to see our Saviour made much of in the lives of men and women. Mpho loves God and people in a way that encourages me to do so. Well let me say I definitely married up a class.

Is your wife also working with you?

Yeah she is, it's such an encouragement. She studied Mathematics (B.Sc) so you can imagine the cost for her, but she considers it a joy to serve and make disciples at Magrietjie (One of the women's residence at Tuks). Ultimately we want to be those commended for our faith in the Lord Jesus, trusting on His finished work.

Well, in the words of Jim Elliot a missionary martyr "he is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose", Sammy and Mpho have made a choice to live for that which they cannot lose, the cost notwithstanding. How and what can *you* do to support the missionaries at Central?

Bits & Pieces about Sam...

His favourite:

Food- A great piece of steak

Music/Musician- Gavin Degraw, Coldplay, Need to Breathe.

Book/Author- A.W Tozer. Favourite book is 'Don't Waste Your Life' by J. Piper.

Place in Pretoria- Home & Brooklyn

Someone you'd like to dine with-

"One famous person I would like to have dinner with is John Adams (forefather in America, and 2nd president of the USA.) I would ask him if he knew how big an impact their sacrifice would be to build a nation that is what it is today".

"The other would be Desmond Tutu. I would want to know just how big did the cross of Jesus have to be, to lead the TRC. And how did it change him, and does he see a continuing need for something like that led by the church".

AGAINST ALL ODDS

by Noel Durrheim

We recently received an email, from friends of yesteryear, proudly announcing the arrival of their latest grandchild.



They attached a number of photos depicting, inter alia, the new arrival cradled in his mother's arms as well as the baby being held by his

grandparents. The photograph that really grabbed my attention, however, was the one of the baby's feet, showing ten tiny toes, presumably providing evidence that the baby was "normal".

On 4 December 1982, a young father-to-be, the pastor of a church in Brisbane, Australia, paced up and down the corridor outside the maternity ward of the local hospital,

where his wife was giving birth to their first child. This was the culmination of months of excited preparation for this special event. Suddenly he heard

the unmistakable cry of a small baby. After a few minutes, which seemed like an eternity, the door opened and the paediatrician, still clad in his medical gown, surgical gloves and mask, emerged from the ward. He beckoned to the pastor to take a seat as he drew up a chair opposite him. The doctor removed the mask revealing a concerned expression on his face. The pastor asked him anxiously: "Is my wife alright? Is the baby okay?" The doctor replied that the mother was fine and that they had done the Apgar score on the baby ('A' – appearance; 'P' – pulse rate; 'G' – grimace, crying; 'A' – activity, muscle tone; 'R' – respiration, breathing). The doctor went on to say



that the scores registered on the first three and the fifth elements had been excellent, he paused before proceeding; "we could not however assess the fourth element viz 'A' - activity (muscle tone)." The pastor interrupted, "Why not?" The doctor responded, with tears welling up in his eyes, "You see, your son was born without legs and arms." He went on to explain that this is a very rare abnormality known as "tetra amelia".

The young parents were devastated by this tragic news and it took them several months to come to terms with this situation. Their son, Nick, apart from this severe birth defect enjoyed good health and made steady progress. Despite the many known and unknown challenges that lay ahead of them and their son, the young couple's deep faith in God, not only sustained them but caused them to rise above their circumstances. Their attitude was epitomised by the logo which they embraced and inculcated into their son at an early age:

**"BE THANKFUL FOR WHAT YOU HAVE,
IN STEAD OF BEING ANGRY ABOUT
WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE!"**

As Nick got to school-going age his parents faced a very serious dilemma, i.e. whether he should attend a special school for handicapped children or a normal day school. After wrestling with this challenge for a considerable time they eventually decided to send him to a normal school. Nick consequently had to endure endless teasing, taunts and mocking at the hands of his fellow scholars. He was so traumatized that, at the tender age of ten years he decided to commit suicide by drowning himself in his bath. He however resisted this urge at the last minute as he visualised what a devastating effect this would have on his parents who had lavished so much love and care upon him.

Nick's life was transformed when he accepted

the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour and Lord, at the age of thirteen. This event marked a paradigm shift in his life. Instead of being preoccupied with the limitations, which his deformity imposed upon him, he was determined to identify his strengths and to fulfill God's purpose for his life. His ability to express himself verbally, won recognition and he was elected as chairman of the student body of the elementary school, which he was attending. After completing his secondary education he enrolled at a University where he graduated in Accounting and Investment Planning, at the age of twenty-one. He has pioneered a non-profit organisation "Life without Limbs", the aim of which is to provide support for individuals who suffer from similar physical limitations, to those he is experiencing. In 2005 Nick was nominated for the prestigious award "Young Australian of the year". He has since relocated to California, USA, and is in great demand, internationally, as a dynamic motivational speaker, addressing large audiences in twenty-four countries

spread over five continents.

This included four visits to China and the Middle East.



A worldwide TV network recently broadcast Nick unashamedly sharing his remarkable testimony. During the past year he did 120 flights to various countries, addressing four million people of whom approximately half a million responded to the challenge to commit their lives to Christ! (But for the amazing grace and favour of God this young man could in all probability have been committed to some obscure institution for physically and mentally disabled people!)

In response to a question, whether he had ever asked God to perform a miracle by giving him arms and legs, he said that he had done so hundreds of times, without this request being granted. Instead of becoming bitter and angry he came to the decision:

**"IF YOU CANNOT GET A MIRACLE –
BECOME ONE"**

He cited the response of the Lord Jesus Christ to the question put to Him by his disciples as to the reason for the man being born blind:

"That the works of God should be manifested in Him" (John 9:3)

Nick emphasized that God had given him the gift of Eternal Life, which was far greater than physical healing. The reality of Nick's intimate personal relationship with the Lord is evidenced by the expression on his face, as he redirects his audience's attention away from himself, by quoting Isaiah 40:31:

***"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew
(change) their strength, they shall mount up
with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be
weary, they shall walk, and not faint"***

His utter confidence in God is borne out by his declaration:

**"YOU WON'T KNOW WHAT GOD CAN DO
OUT OF YOUR BROKEN PIECES UNTIL
YOU HAND THEM OVER TO HIM"**

To those who may be battling with persistent problems, whose prayers seem to be unanswered and who are tempted to give up hope and throw in the sponge, Nick offers the following sterling advice:

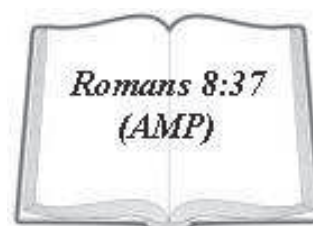
**"DON'T GIVE UP ON GOD, GOD WILL
NOT GIVE UP ON YOU"**

He went on to quote Phil 1:6:

***"I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that
He who began a good work in you will continue
until the day of Jesus Christ, developing and
perfecting, bringing it to full completion in you"***

INSPIRATION FROM THE WORD

***"... WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS
AND GAIN SURPASSING VICTORY
THROUGH HIM WHO LOVED US"***



BETHESDA
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES

a ministry of
Evangelical Baptist Missions



*"I will give thanks to
Thee, O LORD,
among the peoples;
And I will sing
praises to Thee
among the nations.
For Thy lovingkind-
ness is great above
the heavens; And
Thy truth reaches to
the skies. Be ex-
alted, O God, above
the heavens, And
Thy glory above all
the earth."*

Psalms 108:3-5

Raised to Praise

May 2011 Newsletter

From the Director

Dear Friends of Bethesda,

To God be the Glory was the theme of the day on May 22nd as we gathered to praise God for what He has done so far at Bethesda. It hardly seems possible that it has been 10 years already; but, it was wonderful to think back on all that God has done in the hearts and lives of the many adults and children who are at Bethesda. There were so many people who helped to make the day a success! The staff and children all pitched in, the Danville chapter of the Christian Motorcycle Association came and gave motorcycle rides to the children and adults, Bob and Ashtyn Biekert traveled from the States to help throughout the week to help make the day special, and we had a team from Faith Baptist Bible College and Baptist Bible College who helped us prepare and answer questions for the many guests who arrived. It was a blessed day and we wish all of you could have been here. I trust you will enjoy reading about it in this update.



Praise the Lord! After more than a year, I received the letter that says we can begin constructing the new entrance to Bethesda. I am thankful to finally be able to get that matter settled so that the new house can be opened for new children.

Today, I will be interviewing a couple who are interested in houseparenting. They come with good recommendations and I am looking forward to see what God is going to do.

I want God to find us faithful as we minister to each of the 'special treasures' that God sees fit to place into our families at Bethesda. Please pray for our houseparents, teachers, and support staff as we seek to please God in the daily outpouring of love, discipline, and knowledge of the Lord Jesus into our children's lives. It is our prayer that they will come to know Him as their Savior at an early age so they can serve Him faithfully throughout their lives. That is what it is all about!

Thank you for your vital partnership with Bethesda; whether through prayer, financial gifts, or words of encouragement. We appreciate all of you!

Persevering with great joy,

John, for the Bethesda team



10th Anniversary Celebration

How does one summarize 10 years of God's grace in a paragraph? Our words of thanksgiving and praise to God seem feeble and inadequate. On Sunday, 22 May at 3:00 PM, Bethesda had over 400 people gather in a large tent to praise God for His ministry here at Bethesda. It was a wonderful time of praising God and reflecting on all that He has done through the years. There have been many, many changes at Bethesda, but our desire to please God has not changed.

We had many people speak of how they have been involved with Bethesda or how it has changed their life and ministry. Some of the highlights were seeing hundreds of pictures, listening to our children and houseparents sing, honoring some of our long-time staff, hearing one of our older girls give her testimony and watching our school children do a "Gospel in Motion" presentation that put many people in tears!

We welcomed many community friends, local church members and friends of Bethesda for the day. We gave tours, rode motorcycles (courtesy of the Christian Motorcycle Association), visited classrooms and enjoyed lots of fun and fellowship. The best way to share the day with you is by showing you some of the pictures of all that happened. We will highlight other aspects of the anniversary in additional months as there is too much to show in one issue.



Mpho holding our new Bethesda brochure



Lois Mixon, Mamitjie and Elias Matjeni



Thabiso enjoying a motorcycle ride

Marriage Seminar Highlights

The weekend of May 13-14 was a busy one with over 50 couples attending the Marriage Seminar. Dr. David Culver, president of Evangelical Baptist Missions, spoke on several key topics including "The Model Marriage," "Communication," "Conflict," and Forgiveness. The weekend finished with a dinner for the couples followed by a final session taught by South African author, Dr. Arnold Mol.

We are so thankful for the opportunity to help provide opportunities like this one to strengthen the family in South Africa. Please pray that the teaching that each person received will be put into practice.



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

An interview with Tsikwe, winner of "Central's Got Talent"

by Quentin Saunders



Where did your love for music start?

Well, I cannot actuality pinpoint were my love for music started, all I remember is growing up being more drawn to music and the arts than my peers. I was born in Meadowlands, Soweto, and grew up in Mafikeng where my love for hip hop music all started. When my father was not working for the Bophuthatswana Police Force, he played piano for a jazz band called Shine, and would take me along to watch him perform. Man! Those were good days! His band would occasionally fuse their music with poetry, and I can say that was another factor that influenced me to gravitate towards rap/hip hop. Though my parents mainly played jazz and soul music in the house, I would also listen to rap artists like MC Hammer, Vanilla Ice, Heavy D and LL Cool Jay. I remember copying their dress code and memorizing their lyrics not only because they were cool but also because they were able to relate and express what I felt at times. Hip hop music gave me a voice, a way to express my frustrations and concerns, and also gave me a form of identity. After my father passed away when I was 8, we moved a lot, and that gave me a diverse background and a good sense of cultural awareness that I carry with me.

What are you doing at the moment?

Currently, I'm a 3rd year student enrolled for a bachelors degree in theology at Christ Seminary - all for the purpose of getting trained for ministry. I'm also ministering, together with Sbusiso Mhlotshwa, at City Baptist. It's a small Church plant by Central Baptist in downtown Pretoria, located in the Ajo building on the corner of Visagie and Andries street. I have a great love for the City and its potential to reach other nations. We felt led by God to move into those flats and reach the community there and strengthen our members since most of our members live in the Ajo building. I'm trusting in God that He will raise up His own men from that community as we labor and disciple men who will take ownership of the church and lead (please keep us in your prayers). I've been spending time with a few guys called Cash, John D, Peter and Kamogelo - please pray for these

guys as I'm trusting in God to do a great work in them. I've been leading a young adults ministry called Vox ministries which meets every Tuesday at 6. It has been a great joy leading it and seeing its potential. I occasionally preach on Sundays at City Baptist and I can actually see God leading me in that direction.

Why Christian Hip Hop? Rap?

Firstly, I want to clarify that all things, including music, were created to be under the supremacy of Christ, and it is God's pleasure to reconcile all things to Himself through Christ (Col 1:15-20). I would also humbly state that hip hop music in itself is not evil but is a tool that has been misused. People view it as foul music and rightfully so, because it is used by foul men who do not love God, men who are totally depraved and act according to their nature (Rom 3:10-18). One can use a tool for either good or bad. Like a knife, you can use it to chop veggies and make a nutritious stew or use it to rob people, it all depends on the heart of the possessor of that tool. Even preaching can be used in a negative sense (e.g. man centered gospel, which is not the gospel at all!)

Secondly, I want to clarify that I do not seek to replace the church nor the preaching of the Word, but rather use gospel rap music as a tool or a means to an end, and that is the glory of God. He is the source and sustainer of all things and the rightful end (Rom 11:36, 1 Cor 8:6,15:28).

Thirdly I want to warn the church that not every gospel rapper seeks to glorify God and therefore we need to be discerning as to what we take in. However, there are some well known and trusted gospel rap record labels such as Reach Records, Crossmovement Records and Lampmode Records.

Now, why Christian hip hop? As I stated above, music is a tool and it would be wise to use it as we influence man's hearts with God's truth, that we may present God's timeless truth in a timely way. I say this not to be pragmatic nor polemic but rather to be proactive as we

point men to Christ and enjoy Him through art. I thoroughly believe that the Gospel in itself is the power of salvation and not rap music, good singing, new methods or even being a nice person (Rom 1:16-17).

So as a saved dude, redeemed by Christ, this is something that I enjoy doing as I respond to the Great Commission. I have much to say about this, for further info as to why hip hop, go to our Facebook account, join the Voxmovement group and throw in any question you may have. Also stay on the lookout for our website, it should be available by September.

What are your plans for the future?

Well, Lord willingly, I will finish seminary and serve as much as I can at City Baptist, disciple men, and get married. In terms of music, we have started a ministry called Voxmovement. Vox is a Latin word for voice and part of it based on Mark 9:7 when Peter, James and John witnessed the transfiguration and heard God's voice saying: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to Him!".

Voxmovement is an urban ministry that is focused on urban youth with a purpose to reach the globe. We seek to "be an instrument in calling this generation to the worship of the one true God through Jesus Christ" and we seek to do this by being a local church based ministry partnering with other solid local churches. Voxmovement is divided into two parts, Voxmovement Media and Voxmovement Life. For now, as we are still starting up, our media side will be intensely focused on our record label and releasing good urban Christian music and organizing evangelistic concerts in the city together with the local church. Voxmovement Life will be more focused on teaching, training and discipleship. We will strive to help serve the church by training and equipping Christian youth with necessary resources to live effectively for God. We strive to be a tool for God as we strive to know and enjoy Him in all we do. I'm still building a team behind Voxmovement and most of them are Campus Outreach alumni students and members of Central Baptist. If you feel that God may be leading you into this type of ministry, go to our Facebook Group and ask questions. Also be on the lookout for our website coming out by September!

Lyrics to "All about Jesus" (performed at "Central's Got Talent")

Contact me for a free copy of the mp3: 0728692600
(This is only part 1 of "All about Jesus" - stay on the lookout for "All about Jesus 2")

Song: All about Jesus By: Tsikwe Steven Molobye (a.k.a The Broken LP)

Verse 1

*I don't come to you as the greatest rapper
Not the illest story teller/
Man, I used to sip on sin like its H2O
Eyo, Job 15:16 describes the old me
I Peter 2:9-10..now that's who I be
By God's grace and for His glory only
He stooped into this land to purge this sin within me
Now I'm fresh and clean
Man its not all me
I deserve to be crushed like sebokolodi
Now please dont think that I'm being pessimistic
Or I serve a God who is so sadistic
Truly I'm being realistic
If God is truly Holy then He's gotta be angry
Look how we spit in His face
When we pour down His grace
When we twist He's truth
We mock His Bible
But one thing for sure, He is truly coming back, He is
gonna crack the sky like an eggshell
Now everybody sing with me!*

Hook

*Ah,huh ah ah
Huh ah ah (x4)
And its all about Jesus
Jesus (x7)*

Verse 2

*Yo its amazing, mind blazing
He is never changing
Still saving a people who against Him are still beafin
Patient, singing "prodical, I'm still waiting, there is a
big feast, don't worry about the cost I paid it"
Its a mystery it's so beyond me
You are creating life in me
Though I was born a zombie
Waking me from my moral slumber
In the morning of my regeneration
Now I'm waiting on you like A.W.Tozer
And sending marching order's like Corrie Ten Boom
Boom!!
I didn't expect this, the gospel just blew up all the
plans of this sick kid
Rocked the foundations of my world and then cement it
With The Rock that continues to rock the nations
Your face is the goal that we wanna just gaze in
Though I was twisted, sinsick, puke provokin
(back to Hook)*

CENTRAL'S SPORTING TALENT

A Sportsman For All Seasons

At the age of 55, Dennis Frost is still a force to be reckoned with on the sports field.

As a police officer, he believes that a healthy body hosts a healthy mind; and in order to be an ambassador for the image of the police and Lord's service, where so much criticism has been directed against unfit and overweight policemen, he has proven that there are policemen who do take care of themselves.

Dennis has, since the age of 13, taken part in a majority of sports on a provincial and national level, where he has excelled over the years. These events include rugby, soccer, hockey, table tennis, fitness championships, athletics marathons (accumulating over 600 medals, comrades included) and cycling. He has proven himself to be a sportsman for all seasons. Between 1988 and 2001, Dennis participated in and completed 11 comrades marathons. He still partakes in 10 kilometre road races, master's athletics, cycling, swimming, and fitness championships. During the past two seasons, he has twice broken the police javelin record, in two

consecutive age groups. He also competes in numerous field and track events, where he has received gold, silver and bronze medals.

As a police officer with 37 years service, he firmly believes that sports and God have helped him to overcome the stresses associated with his demanding work. His mottos over the years have been "life is a journey, enjoy the ride" and "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy"!

As the team manager of the SAP Head Office athletics team during 2011, he has helped them take 3rd place at the SAP Athletics Championship, out of 10 provinces.

Dennis believes that were it not for his trust in God, and the fitness and swimming abilities he has been given, he would have succumbed to a near drowning, during a holiday in Margate.

He continues to give God all the glory for his sporting talents, and expresses gratitude to his wife, who has supported him faithfully all these years as a spectator and encourager.

Dennis in action with the javelin, and the pedals



and... More creative talent!



Above: Richard Kingon and Koos Bronkhorst (musicians at Bethesda's 10 year celebration) together with a painting by Koos



Above: Koos and Richard playing at Bethesda



Above and right: Paintings by Koos

Working on Central's Campus in the East



Hard at work at the East campus, transforming the venue into a future church, were, The Renckens (above), Brandon confronting pole (bottom left) and Eric wielding a chisel (bottom right).



A NEW APPROACH TO PUBLICATION

BY THE MOZAMBIQUE SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE

By Hedley and Sandy Stead

By God's grace the Mozambique School of the Bible has over the past 15 years endeavoured to provide good Christian literature in the indigenous languages of Mozambique, by managing the translating, printing and publishing of these books. One of these languages is what they call 'Shona' which is a dialect of the standardised 'Union Shona' of Zimbabwe, but we have not been able to translate and publish as much in it as we would have liked to.

The Lord has led us to approach this translation project in a different way. Most of our suggested material comes from the Union Bible Institute and is in Zulu. The people who live around Bulawayo in Zimbabwe speak a language known as Ndebele and it is so close to Zulu that it is easily understood by them. In July and again in November last year I toured much of Zimbabwe to find people who would partner with me in the translation of these books into Shona.

Earlier this year I received an e-mail informing me that a "Translation Committee" had been formed in Gweru and they were looking to me to help them get started! So in May, Sandy and I made our way to Gweru in Zimbabwe and met with this Committee. We were delighted to find four experienced pastors who were keen to start with this translation project. Copies of the Zulu books had been left with key people on my previous visits and these books were on hand and had been examined. Pastor Chauke has seen and used these UBI books before and so he is aware of their value. He also has strong connections with the smaller Shangaan speaking community in Zimbabwe and was very pleased to hear that a number of these books have already been translated into Shangaan, which he can use immediately.

Tino Gerstner was of great help in preparing a computer which I was able to put into the hands of the Committee. In order for me to be able to do the type-setting before printing I do need to receive the 'manuscript' in digital (computer) form as it would not be wise to copy-type from a hand written document in a language that is not known. Thus they

will be able to send it to me by e-mail once they have completed a book.

Within the congregations of these four pastors there are young people who are receiving tertiary education in "Media" and who, they felt, would be well equipped to do the translation work. I was a little hesitant for these pastors to leave the translation work in the hands of (just) young people and I voiced my concern that the older, more experienced and spiritually mature people should also be involved. They assured me that they would be very critical of any translation that goes through their hands. They quoted the example that they were involved in the rejection of a translation of the Bible that they considered as being untrue to the original text!

In our meeting I explained that for a 'partnership' to work efficiently all parties should know what their responsibilities were and what the expectations of each party would be. I asked (a little apprehensively) as to what their expectations of us were, wondering if they thought that this work would carry a fat salary cheque. They gave us no such indication and so I showed them a 'Partnership Agreement' of literature distribution that I had made previously with a pastor on the opposite side of the country, which clearly showed that this work was not just an employment opportunity. They happily affirmed that they would do this work because they wanted to help their people to be built up in the faith.

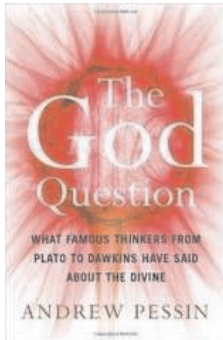
We were very encouraged by the enthusiasm and spiritual maturity of these pastors. The church of Jesus Christ in Zimbabwe is alive! It is so very different in Mozambique which is still largely unevangelised.

The Committee now have the tools to do the work. Please pray with us that they will be faithful in the task that they have committed themselves to do. Also please pray for me that as soon as they have done their work I might have the ability to print the books quickly and send them to Zimbabwe.

RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

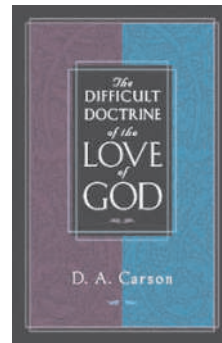


NEW BOOKS



The God Question

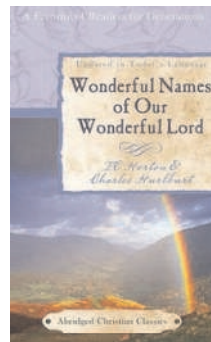
by Andrew Pessin



The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God

by D.A. Carson

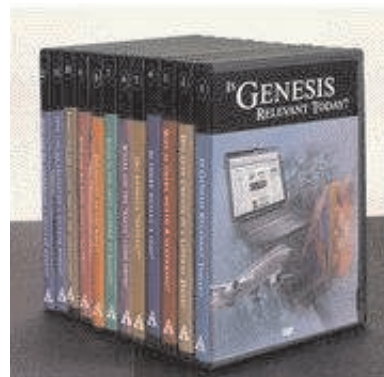
Wonderful Names of our Wonderful Lord



by Charles E. Hurlbut

A 12 DVD series

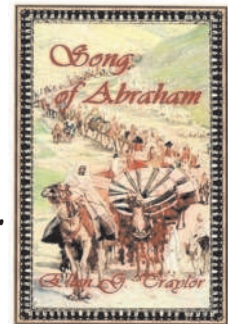
by Ken Ham



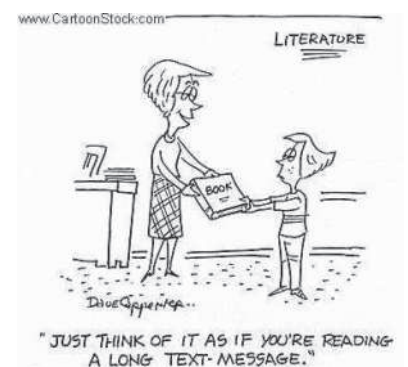
Is Genesis relevant?
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Is there really a God?
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What is the only answer to racism?
Dinosaurs in the Bible . How can we raise Godly children?
Fossils and the Flood – What's the connection?
How can we evangelize a secular world (2 Vol)

Song of Abraham

by Ellen G. Traylor



Please feel free to visit the library and take out books!



HUSBANDS AND WIVES...

Some marriages are made in heaven, but they all have to be maintained on earth!

A man phones the hospital and says: "Send me help, my wife is in labour!" The nurse asks: "Calm down, is this her first child?" The man replies: "No, this is her husband!"

On a plumber's truck: "We repair what your husband fixed"

A woman marries a man expecting he will change, but he does not. A man marries a woman expecting that she won't change, but she does.

On a maternity room door: PUSH!

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FRIENDS AND KINDNESS...

We read that we ought to forgive our enemies – but we do not read that we ought to forgive our friends!

Kindness in words creates confidence, kindness in thinking creates profoundness, kindness in feeling creates love.

Wouldn't it be nice if people flashed as many smiles as they do credit cards?

Angels exist, but sometimes, since they don't have wings, we call them friends.

The man who keeps busy helping the man below him will not have time to envy the man above him.

Confess you were wrong yesterday. It will show you are wiser today.

Quote

Bless every humble soul, who in these days of stress and strain, preaches sermons without words. *Peter Marshall*

Our Father who art in Hea...

Yes?

Don't interrupt me. I'm praying.

But -- you called ME!

Called you? ...No, I didn't call you.

I'm praying. **Our Father who art in Heaven.**

There -- you did it again!

Did what?

Called ME. You said, "Our Father who art in Heaven". Well, here I am... What's on your mind?

But I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord's Prayer. It makes me feel good, kind of like fulfilling a duty. Well, all right. Go on.

Okay, **Hallowed be thy name.**

Hold it right there.

What do you mean by that?

By what?

By "Hallowed be thy name"?

It means, it means . . . good grief, I don't know what it means. How in the world should I know? It's just a part of the prayer. By the way, what does it mean?

It means honored, holy, wonderful.

Hey, that makes sense... I never thought about what 'hallowed' meant before.

Thanks.

Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

Do you really mean that?

Sure, why not?

What are you doing about it?

Doing? Why, nothing, I guess. I just think it would be kind of neat if you got control, of everything down here like you have up there.. We're kinda in a mess down here you know.

Yes, I know; but, have I got control of you?

Well, I go to church.

That isn't what I asked you. What about your bad temper? You've really got a problem there, you know. And then there's the way you

spend your money -- all on yourself.

And what about the kind of books you read?

Now hold on just a minute!

Stop picking on me!

I'm just as good as some of the rest of those people at church!

Excuse ME..

I thought you were praying for my will to be done. If that is to happen, it will have to start with the ones who are praying for it. Like you -- for example

Oh, all right. I guess I do have some hang-ups. Now that you mention it, I could probably name some others. So could I.

I haven't thought about it very much until now, but I really would like to cut out some of those things. I would like to, you know, be really free.

Good. Now we're getting somewhere.

We'll work together -- You and ME. I'm proud of You.

Look, Lord, if you don't mind, I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does. **Give us this day, our daily bread.**

You need to cut down on the bread...

You're overweight as it is.

Hey, wait a minute! What is this? Here I was doing my religious duty, and all of a sudden you break in and remind me of all my hang-ups.

Praying is a dangerous thing. You just might get what you ask for. Remember, you called ME -- and here I am. It's too late to stop now.

Keep praying. (pause) Well, go on.

I'm scared to.

Scared? Of what?

I know what you'll say.

Try ME.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

What about Ansie?

See? I knew it! I knew you would bring her up! Why, Lord, she's told lies about me, spread stories. She never paid back the money she owes me. I've sworn to get even with her!

But -- your prayer --

What about your prayer? I didn't -- mean it...

Well, at least you're honest.

But, it's quite a load carrying around all that bitterness and resentment isn't it? Yes, but I'll feel better as soon as I get even with her. Boy, have I got some plans for her. She'll wish she had never been born.

No, you won't feel any better. You'll feel worse. Revenge isn't sweet. You know how unhappy you are -- Well, I can change that.

You can? How?

Forgive Ansie. Then, I'll forgive you; And the hate and the sin, will be Ansie's problem -- not yours. You will have settled the problem as far as you are concerned.

Oh, you know, you're right. You always are. And more than I want revenge, I want to be right with You... (sigh). All right, all right... I forgive her.

There now!

Wonderful! How do you feel?

Hmmmm. Well, not bad. Not bad at all!

In fact, I feel pretty great! You know, I don't think I'll go to bed uptight tonight. I haven't been getting much rest, you know.

Yeah, I know.

But, you're not through with your prayer, are you? Go on.

Oh, all right. **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

Good! Good! I'll do that. Just don't put yourself in a place where you can be tempted.

What do you mean by that?

You know what I mean.

Yeah. I know.

Okay. Go ahead. Finish your prayer..

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Do you know what would bring me glory -
- What would really make me happy?

No, but I'd like to know. I want to please you now... I've really made a mess of things. I want to truly follow you. I can see now how great that would be. So, tell me. How do I make you happy?

YOU just did.