

*June 2014*

# LIFE@central

Central Baptist Church, Pretoria





# PASTOR'S CORNER

*by Charles de Kiewit [Senior Pastor]*

## ***Dear Friends***

This edition of Life@Central follows a season in the life of our church where there has been lots of activity. Our annual family camp took place with some great teaching from the book of Colossians by our guest speaker, Mark Penrith; the King's Rubies group had an excellent event around the theme of simple living; a number of believers were baptised, publically expressing their allegiance to and faith in Jesus; five of us visited Ecuador to visit our sent missionary, Darren, and then also to be involved in his and Andrea's wedding; a group of younger men and women experienced the adventure of tackling some rafting down the Orange River; a dads and lads weekend has also taken place...

Along with these and many other special events the normal weekly life and service in the church has continued with many of you attending weekly home Bible study groups and Sunday services. Some of you may ask about the meaning and point of all this activity, some of which you will read of in this publication. Are we just a busy bunch of people with lots of time on our hands, or is there something more behind all this activity?

Some of what is being achieved can be seen in the building and strengthening of relationships, increasing knowledge of the Bible, challenging one another in our walk of faith with God, being disciplined and discipling others... We are constantly striving to lead people in their worship of God, their care for one another, and beyond our own church and city our desire is to impact the world.

We are a busy people with the intention of glorifying God in all of life. Glorifying God moves us in all we do. There is however an emphasis in busy gospel ministry that we must not miss. It is something I have been challenged on through the apostle Paul in *2 Corinthians 12:15: **I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls.*** Paul makes this comment in the face of opposition and criticism. He looks beyond the present hard circumstances of his life and remains resolute to spend and be spent for the sake of people's souls. Like Paul, we here at Central must also be willing to give of ourselves and even allow others to take from us; if it will in some way serve their right standing with God.

We cannot and must not passively stand by unconcerned about people going to heaven or going to hell. We do everything we can so that we can proclaim the gospel of Christ that commands men, women and children to repent and believe.

Spending and being spent is a costly business. It takes us away from our couches, it redirects our budget, it opens our eyes to the needs of others, it hurts and brings discomfort and inconvenience... But it is worth it; for the glory of God and saving of souls. Let us together be willing to spend and be spent for the souls of many.

***Charles***



# CARING MINISTRY

*by Eric Robbins [Assistant Pastor]*



## CAN YOU SAY THIS?

*"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you"*

*Psalm 119:11*

**L**et me put it even more directly! As a follower of Jesus Christ are you taking his Word really seriously? Are you memorising portions from the Bible? Are you even trying to learn the "Let's learn the Word together" verse in each week's bulletin? I hope your response to these questions is not something like this: "Well, I used to learn verses when I was at Sunday School but I don't really need that anymore." Keep learning and prevent spiritual Alzheimers!



As the leadership of Central we believe these are days that we should all be following Christ more closely than ever before. We need to keep growing because there is so much out there to draw us away and to make us compromise. You and I need to anchor our minds and hearts in God's powerful Word!

I believe it would help all of us to start memorising Scripture, to hear of people who are taking these things seriously. So is there anyone out there who is willing to share their experience of a renewed effort to memorise the most important book in all the World?

***Pastor Eric***

### The *Life at Central* Magazine

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

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

Previous editions (2006 to 2013) are also available.

Articles for *Women's Value* compiled by Brenda Knoesen. The cover picture was photographed by Gerrit Jansen van Rensburg. Edited by Wambui Gititu and Daniel Salzwedel.

# LIFE DEFINING experiences

by Noel Durrheim

A friend of mine delights to take his two Border Collies for a ramble over the Bronberg Mountain every Saturday morning. It was therefore surprising to see him, recently, with only one dog on a leash. My enquiry regarding the whereabouts of Brodi (the missing dog)



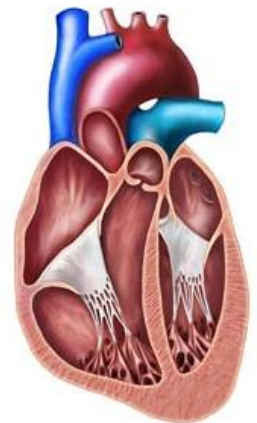
elicited this remarkable story.

He informed me that Brodi had been out of sorts lately, finding it difficult to cope with the steep inclines. He took him to a veterinary surgeon who gave him a thorough examination which disclosed a massive hernia which protruded into his chest cavity, impacting his heart. He was referred to the medical facility at Onderstepoort for surgery. The operation took five hours leaving my friend with a R7,500 dent in his bank account! The dog was kept under observation for a week.

My friend's wife went to collect the dog and was flabbergasted when a young lady, wearing a surgical gown, rushed up and threw her arms around Brodi, caressing him and kissing his

face. The dog's owner was concerned for the young woman's safety, fearing that the dog would attack her. (To her surprise she found Brodi reciprocating the affection lavished upon him by licking his admirer's face.)

The demonstrative young woman, seeing the surprised expression on the dog owner's face, informed her that she was a member of group of veterinary students, who participated in the surgical procedure performed on Brodi. She went on to say that she had cradled the dog's pulsating heart in her hands, while the operation was being performed. This had been a defining moment in her life. She became so aware of the Presence of the Omnipotent God, Creator of the universe and the Source of life that she debunked Darwin's theory of evolution, which had been inculcated during her medical studies. Her faith in God was rekindled, which led to her putting her trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as her personal saviour!



It is amazing to see the ways in which God communicates with people. E.g. in the case mentioned above, the life giving throb of a dog's heart, on another occasion by causing a donkey to speak to its recalcitrant owner (Numbers 22:28-33).



The most noteworthy example, being Paul's supernatural experience on the road to Damascus, where he was blinded by a bright light and fell to the ground, and heard God audibly rebuking him for persecuting Believers. Paul's response provides a valuable role model on how to respond to God: **"Lord what do You want me to do?"** (Acts 9:6), and his implicit obedience to God's directions. His life and ministry subsequently impacted thousands of people.

Paul's intervention, in preventing the Philippian jailer from committing suicide, when his world was literally crashing around him, the aftermath of a devastating earthquake, elicited this desperate cry: "What must I do to be saved?" Paul's prompt reply: **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved ..."** (Acts 16:31). This resulted in the jailer's life being transformed.



**Note:** You are most welcome to submit questions or to send details of other life defining experiences to Noel (Tel. 012 361 7264, or email [noelandirisd@telkomsa.net](mailto:noelandirisd@telkomsa.net))

## Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng's view on his Christian faith and meting out justice

In an insightful article which recently appeared in the *Mail & Guardian*, the South African Chief Justice, Mogoeng Mogoeng, explains why his Christian faith does not militate against his capacity to dispense justice fairly. The article, entitled *Upholding Christ and the Constitution*, was written by Mogoeng in response to concerns raised about his suitability for judicial office after he had "openly declared an unwavering commitment to Christianity." Mogoeng clarifies that his oath to "uphold and protect the Constitution and the human rights entrenched in it and ... administer justice to all persons alike without fear, favour or prejudice in accordance with the Constitution and the law," is an irrevocable vow to South Africa and to Christ to administer justice without favour or prejudice in

accordance with the Constitution and the law, and not with the Bible. The Chief Justice explains that the Bible instructs Christians to be righteous in judgment and to pursue truth justly, impartially, and in fear of the Lord. Mogoeng comes to the conclusion that his "total submission to Jesus Christ is not the antitheses of blind justice", but that "Christianity is about love, impartiality, justice and distaste for corruption."

The above are only excerpts from Mogoeng's article, and it is well worth it to read the judge's complete article to understand his view. The complete article is available from the following URL:

**<http://mg.co.za/article/2014-04-16-upholding-christ-and-the-constitution>**





# WOMEN'S VALUE



## A letter from Carol

Hello Central Baptist Ladies and all others who choose to read this article!

King's Rubies girls have discovered that to be a radical disciple means being proactive in our Christian disciplines.

Without repeating much of what we have said over these past few months, there are some areas I want to highlight.

Our 'mini-seminar' on Simple Living was a fun morning but also challenging.

The idea we were hoping to get across was one of living a disciplined life when it comes to our life style.

As followers of Jesus, who Himself lived a simple life, we need to be disciplined in how we spend and use the resources we have been blessed with. It's tempting to buy what we want instead of what we need. It's too easy to convince ourselves that our desires are instead needs. We lavish ourselves with far more than is necessary and hold back in our giving to God, His church and ministry. Keeping life simple is radical, this is part of radical discipleship.

Andy and Debbie Abbott were a challenge to us as they talked about their simple life especially when they

move into the jungle for 6 weeks at a time in order to give of themselves to the Moscona people. They asked us to make a list of 10 things we would take with us if we were going into the jungle for 2 weeks, let alone 6 – quite a task. We had things like hairdryers, lipstick, favourite pillows etc. on the list. Other things were left off like a torch, matches, water.

They told how they have to pay \$2 per kg for what has to be flown into the jungle with them. This money comes from the money they receive from their supporters every month. There is no electricity in the jungle, no running water, no comfortable beds or refrigeration.

This is what I would call being spent for the Gospel of Christ. This is simple living.

God doesn't expect us all to live in the jungle like this, but He does expect us to consider people who do, and other like them who rely on others to make it possible for them to minister and take the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

It is wrong to live selfish, lavish lives when we could be living more simply so that others can go. Lavish living can so easily hinder and complicate.



# WOMEN'S VALUE

Hebrews 12:1-3 is a good reminder of this:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

Randu did an excellent job in showing us how we can plan our wardrobe so that we can save and do the best with the figures we have (by that I mean cash and body!)

I do pray that God would help me to be more motivated to live a God-honouring simple life.

AJ presented the message of 'choosing life' at our most recent meeting in May. The life of the Christian goes on into eternity. Our lives here on earth are really a miniscule fraction of eternity, yet we spend so much time making ourselves comfortable here on earth, living as if it is our home and we are here forever. We generally give little time to preparing for our eternal home.

I was challenged as a mum to spend more time preparing my children for what lies on the other side of grave. Life can become so imbalanced when we allow ourselves to get caught up with the

temporal issues in life, even though they are important they will one day be left behind.

We need to keep the scales balanced and be more radical in keeping eternal things high on our agenda.

We only have two more King's Rubies meetings left this year. If you don't normally attend our ladies meetings, may I encourage you to join us.

It's important to develop good friendships with other church ladies, after all they are family and you know the saying "you can choose your friends but you can't choose your family".

If you take the trouble to get to know your other Christian family members, your sisters, you might just be pleasantly surprised to discover that you have more in common than you realise, that you both carry your Father's genes, that you both have His eyes and have the same goals which are far easily reached when straining together.

Come on girls, join us for a good warm winter lunch at Arcadia on Saturday 26th July at 12h00, as we hear more on why we need each other in this God chosen family.

Finally my sisters,

"Be faithful until death, and I (God) will give you the crown of life."

Luv and Laughter

Carol



# WOMEN'S VALUE

## Principles in the Alphabet

Although things are not perfect  
Because of trial or pain  
Continue in thanksgiving  
Do not begin to blame  
Even when the times are hard  
Fierce winds are bound to blow  
God is forever able  
Hold on to what you know  
Imagine life without His love  
Joy would cease to be  
Keep thanking Him for all the things  
Love imparts to thee  
Move out of "Camp Complaining"  
No weapon that is known  
On earth can yield the power  
Praise can do alone  
Quit looking at the future  
Redeem the time at hand  
Start every day with worship  
To "thank" is a command  
Until we see Him coming  
Victorious in the sky  
We'll run the race with gratitude  
Exalting God most high  
Yes, there'll be good times and yes some  
will be bad, but...  
Zion waits in glory...where none are  
ever sad!



## Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark

One: Don't miss the boat.

Two: Remember that we are all in the  
same boat.

Three: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when  
Noah built the Ark.

Four: Stay fit. When you're 600 years old,  
someone may ask you to do something  
really big.

Five: Don't listen to critics; just get on  
with the job that needs to be done.

Six: Build your future on high ground.

Seven: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

Eight: Speed isn't always an advantage.  
The snails were on board with the  
cheetahs.

Nine: When you're stressed, float a while.

Ten: Remember, the Ark was built by  
amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

Eleven: No matter the storm, when you  
are with God, there's always a rainbow  
waiting...

— Submitted by Christine Cook —





# WOMEN'S VALUE

## Triple Chocolate Cheesecake

Recipe  
submitted by  
Dawn Robb

### Ingredients (serves 8)

- \* 200g plain chocolate biscuits
- \* 80g butter, melted
- \* 1/3 cup cold tap water
- \* 5 teaspoons gelatine
- \* 500g cream cheese, softened
- \* 1/2 cup icing sugar
- \* 1/2 cup milk
- \* 150g white chocolate, melted
- \* 150g dark chocolate, melted
- \* 1 1/2 cups thickened cream, whipped
- \* 100g milk chocolate, grated
- \* Cocoa powder, to serve

### Method

1. Grease and line a 24cm (base) springform pan. Process biscuits in a food processor to fine crumbs. Transfer to a bowl. Add melted butter. Stir until well combined. Use your fingertips to press into base of prepared pan. Refrigerate for 20 minutes or until firm.
2. Place water into a heatproof microwavesafe bowl. Sprinkle over gelatine. Stand for 1 minute. Microwave, uncovered, on HIGH (100%) power for 20 to 40 seconds or until gelatine dissolves. Set aside for 15 minutes.
3. Using an electric mixer, beat cream cheese, sugar and milk until smooth. Stir in gelatine. Divide cream cheese mixture between 2 bowls.
4. Stir white chocolate into 1 cream cheese mixture. Stir dark chocolate into other.
5. Fold half the cream through white chocolate mixture and half through dark chocolate mixture.
6. Pour dark chocolate mixture over biscuit base. Freeze for 10 minutes or until firm to the touch. Carefully spread white chocolate mixture over dark. Cover. Refrigerate overnight.
7. Release sides of pan. Place cheesecake onto a serving platter. Sprinkle with grated milk chocolate. Dust with cocoa. Cut into slices with a warm knife. Serve.



# Why I remain A BAPTIST

*This article was published in a Baptist Union magazine about ten years ago.  
Submitted by Margie Martin.*

The following excerpts are from a sermon preached by the Rev Charles Garratt. The date when it was preached and the place are unknown. However, the truths contained in the text are timeless. Charles Garratt was one of the early Pastors of Central Baptist Church in Pretoria. The sermon notes were found recently in the BU Archives by Val Nowlan who has also compiled this summary.

Now and again it is necessary that one should speak plainly on issues which in general accentuate the differences by which the people of the Lord are divided. My subject may suggest that there have been times when I have hesitated about remaining a Baptist. That is not so but there have been times when others have made overtures having for their object a move in some other direction. Before I say why I remain what I am, I may mention a few things that have not been deciding factors.

I have NOT remained a Baptist because I was born and brought up a Baptist; or because the Baptist denomination is one of the largest of the Protestant churches; or because I think the Baptists are the only Christian people in the world; or because I cannot see the strength of other denominations; or because I am in love with a Baptist type of building, music, social status or because the Baptist Church in South Africa is so popular.

I have remained a Baptist because I honestly believe the Baptist position more consistently honours the Lord Jesus Christ than any other. To me the whole Christian religion centres in

the Lord Jesus Christ and there is no part of it in which the rightness or wrongness of our views and practices does not touch His position. For me loyalty to Jesus Christ has kept me in the Baptist Church.

I have remained a Baptist because I believe the Baptist position maintains the conception of the Church – in the New Testament the individual Church is a spiritual democracy. The New Testament Church was a company of people owing allegiance to Jesus Christ, born again by the Holy Spirit, banded together for mutual fellowship and united in witness, governing themselves and owning one Head, the Lord Jesus Christ.

I have remained a Baptist because I believe the Baptist position maintains the New Testament conception of the Church's business which is to preach the Gospel, baptize converts and instruct them in the things of Christ.

I have remained a Baptist because I believe that the Baptist position maintains the New Testament conception of the priesthood. The New Testament knows only two orders of the priesthood, the first the Great High Priesthood of Christ and the second the priesthood of all believers.

I have remained a Baptist because the Baptist position maintains the conception of authority in matters of faith and practice. The source of authority is the Lord Jesus Christ. The Word of God is a trustworthy record and in it we find the mind of the Lord Jesus and that is our absolute authority.

I have remained a Baptist because I believe the Baptist position maintains the New Testament conception of the Christian ordinances. These ordinances are Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Communion). These ordinances are symbolical, commemorative and declaratory. The New Testament does not teach that they are mediums IN which spiritual life is imparted.

I have remained a Baptist because I believe that the Baptist Church has kept Baptism in its truly Scriptural place – that is after conversion. We hold that Baptism should be by immersion because every time Baptism is referred to in the New Testament the word means immersion.

I have remained a Baptist because I believe that the Baptist position maintains the New Testament conception of the Christian life which is expressed in phrases such as buried with Him in baptism and living as a child of God.

I have remained a Baptist because the Baptist position maintains the New Testament teaching of man's individuality. The New Testament teaches that every individual soul is capable of personal faith and is personally accountable to God.

I have remained a Baptist because the Baptist position gives Jesus the preeminence at every point, acclaiming Him the one and only Head of the Church, maintaining the full and final efficacy of His Sacrifice and acknowledging Him to be both Saviour and Lord.

For me the Baptist position is the nearest I know to the New Testament and I commend it to those who seek above all else to know and to follow the Will of Jesus Christ.

Charles Garratt

## THE MASTER MECHANIC

“I was running on almost empty and I didn't see how I would go the distance without having my tank filled up. Yes on the few reserves that I had I could still possibly go another year, or even two years, but more than that would be very difficult. So my mechanic brought me back to the workshop where He had made me, to do a few operations on my inner core. I thought it would be quick and I would be able to go back into the racecourse quickly, but my mechanic had other plans.

Instead of just filling my body up with fuel, He did an overhaul of my system. It was painful and I had to be quiet. It was difficult to adjust to where I had been made. But gradually my Master mechanic worked quietly and patiently on me. I loved having a period of reflection and not having to do this, having to do that. As He did this process, He told me that He was preparing me to go back to tell others about this gracious amazing Master mechanic, who made all of us and wanted us to live according to His manual. I knew that it would be difficult to go back. I had grown comfortable in the place I had been made and spent most of my life in.

Yet my Master's call was persistent as He showed me the condition of so many of the cars in the land that I had been. Their dents and broken paint on the outside, but even more serious their poisoning from the wrong fuel on the inside, and how so many motors there were running on fuels that were diluted or containing the wrong ingredients. They could still run but were limping along. They needed healing that only the Master could do. They needed to be willing to put their engines and their whole selves into the hands of the Master. As I go back I will need to listen to the Master daily, and let Him direct and lead me. I will need to be very familiar with the Manual and know some of it off by heart, as this will help me to stay on the right road. I need to rely on the Master, not myself, and function in dependence on Him daily.” - **Lauren**



# TRIP TO *ECUADOR!*

by Bev van Rensburg



*Pastor Charles and Carol, together with Reuben, Bev and Ryan van Rensburg, recently went to Ecuador to see Darren's areas of ministry of working for the Operation Mobilisation South Team – in Saraguro, Tenta and the Yaco. From there they flew to Quito where Charles conducted most of Darren and Andrea's wedding.*

## ***Some highlights of the trip were:***

1. Being met by Andrea on arrival.
2. Flying over the snow-clad Cotopaxi volcano (the highest active volcano in the world) – on the Equator.
3. Participating in the medical outreach with the Operation Mobilisation (OM) teams and doctors, pharmacists, ophthalmologists and gynaecologists in Saraguro. Ryan and Carol were involved in the production and fitting of glasses, while Charles did some preaching and Bev ministered in the prayer tent and in giving testimonies and encouragement. Reuben and Charles directed queues of people.
4. Hearing Charles preach at two services with Darren as translator, and enjoying fellowship with Pastor Miguel and his family.
5. Travelling with OM'ers and Darren to Tenta and the Yaco - which are areas of unreached peoples - and having special fellowship with the pastoral family in Tenta in his carpenter's workshop / church.



*A snow-covered Cotopaxi – on the Equator!*

6. We stopped over in Cuenca where we stayed with the family of Juan Estevan (from OM Ships and a special friend of Darren) and his gracious parents, and went shopping at the indigenous market. Here we ate our best meal, other than the wedding meal, with him.
7. A meeting with Andrea's godly family, and having a meal with them before we all went to the wedding venue for the wedding rehearsal, was a highlight in itself!
8. The magnificent God-exalting wedding with mainly family and the OM team, some of whom had travelled by bus overnight to get there (from Guayaquil), and then returned on the overnight bus that night.

**All glory to God for the two house accommodation for the OM South team in Saraguro.**

**All glory to God for Andrea, a beautiful wife and ministry companion for Darren!**



*Andrea with the Van Rensburgs and De Kiewits in Quito*





*Children at the medical outreach*



*Medical outreach with the pastor and his mom*



*Carol and Ryan making glasses*



*Walking in Saraguro*



*The pastor's wife in Tenta*



*The pastor leads worship*

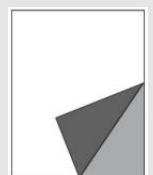


*Saraguro market*



*A woman waiting in the queue at Saraguro*

*Please turn to the next page  
for Pastor Charles's report  
on the trip to Ecuador*





# Pastor Charles's Ecuador Experience



Many of you have asked the question, "Was the trip worth it?" My response has been the same to all who have asked, "How does one work out the value of such an exercise?"

It is hard to assess value in rands and cents when it comes to kingdom investments. I did however think it useful to put in writing some of our impressions and findings while visiting with Darren in Ecuador.

## ***Itinerary***

We left on Sunday night the 6th April travelling to Quito, the capital city of Ecuador. It was a long (25 hours) and tiring trip via Sao Paulo and Lima. One day was spent in Quito to allow the van Rensburg's an opportunity to sort out some wedding arrangements.

From Quito we flew to Cuenca where Darren met us and we were transported to Saraguro. This is where Darren and Andrea plan to settle and start a ministry to the people in the region.

Saraguro is a small town set in a 3rd world context where most citizens still wear indigenous dress and have strong ties to their roots. The Catholic Church has had a huge influence in this area as in most of South America.

We joined the tail end of a "medical brigade". It was useful to witness this outreach effort where medical doctors and optometrists along with the Ecuadorian OM team worked hard at reaching out to the local people with the gospel.

It was great to see Darren in action. He was in charge of the evangelism team. I had a few opportunities to preach brief messages with him translating. Carol and Ryan got involved in assembling glasses. Bev, Reuben and I got involved in the prayer ministry and assisted in

directing people to the various work stations.

After the medical brigade was over, we spent a day on the back of a bakkie exploring the area where the future ministry is envisaged. We visited Tenta Central, North and South. This region is situated in the Andes Mountains.

The next day was Sunday with us attending the 2 small evangelical churches in Saraguro, and me preaching with Darren interpreting the message.

On Monday we travelled back to Cuenca; lunch with Darren's friends, afternoon shopping and supper with an ex-OM'er.

On Tuesday we flew back to Quito for Darren to join up with Andrea for the final preparation for the wedding. Wednesday to Friday were taken up by some sight-seeing, with one morning at the wedding venue for a wedding rehearsal.

On Saturday we were involved with the wedding all day. My participation at the wedding included a message and some of the other formalities. At the reception I managed to have some useful discussions with the senior pastor of Andrea's church as well as the OM Ecuadorian team leaders.



*Leaving Quito for Cuenca*



Early Sunday morning we started the trek home, arriving back in Pretoria late Monday afternoon.

### **Ministry**

I do believe I have a better understanding of Darren's ministry as well as some understanding of OM Ecuador.

Up until recently the focus of ministry had been in the coastal region of Guayaquil. The ministry in and from Saraguro is a new venture. Four OM team members, consisting of Darren, Andrea and two single people, are settling in the small town.

Their plan is to use water purification efforts along with the contacts made at the medical outreach to establish area groups that may lead to the planting of a church and / or the strengthening of existing works. We did meet the pastor and family from a small church in the Tenta Central area that they hope to support.

The two churches in Saraguro are small and weak. The pastors need further training and guidance in many of the fundamental areas of doctrine and church practice. There is a tendency in the one church especially to slip into a gospel of salvation by works rather than by grace.

### **Darren and Andrea**

They are a great young Christian couple who have a strong desire to serve the Lord and the cause of the gospel. Darren has grown in leaps and bounds. He is far more confident that when he left here some years ago.

His ability in Spanish is excellent. One local OMer commented that Darren's Spanish is far better than most local people. We noticed the ease with which he communicates with local people and the competence he has in translating from English.

I have no doubt that they will need to settle in to married life. This will be a challenge for Andrea as she will be far from her family. We noticed that she was very close to them.

There may also be some adjustment and growth in the area of the cross-cultural challenges in marriage.

Darren's physical frailty is an ongoing concern. He was under pressure while we were there with wedding preparations and a visiting team from Central, but he seemed to be excessively tired and complained of stomach aches.

### **OM**

We had the opportunity to connect with the field leader and his wife. They are a mature couple aware of Darren's gifts and work areas. They assured us that they will stay in touch with them doing the necessary to support and guide them in marriage and ministry.

### **Andrea's local church**

We chatted to the senior pastor of Andrea's church about their support of Darren and Andrea explaining how we are involved. He defended their non-support as a result of Andrea not requesting support. Our discussion included an appeal to him to consider a more deliberate involvement with them as a couple on the field.

I learned from the OM leaders that the Ecuadorian church has not yet taken up the challenge to support their sent missionaries. This is still in the beginning stages. They have in fact had to raise their support in the US and the Netherlands.

I do plan to urge Darren to formally approach Andrea's church to get involved in a meaningful relationship and partnership.

### **Conclusion**

Was it worth it? In my view in light of the long-term nature of Darren's ministry in Ecuador it was worth investing this money to better understand his context as well as send a message of genuine interest in them and the work they will be doing.

Both Carol and I appreciate the opportunity. Thank you to the leaders, MMC and church for affording us this opportunity. May it bear much fruit for the kingdom of God.

# The Gospel at work in Central



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*by Peter Skinner*

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“Coming here every Wednesday has been an encouragement, because I meet people who are going through the same things that I’m going through and I have people that I can share my problem with and hear me. I’m also growing spiritually,” says Billy, a homeless refugee from Rwanda. Pretoria is not unlike other large cities and includes its share of the needy. For us here in Arcadia, the natural place the needy turn to for help is our church. Responding to this steady stream of needs was placing an increased burden on the office staff and reducing their effectiveness. A year ago this challenge was turned into an outreach opportunity. Freddy Kaseke, and more recently assisted by Henry, serves in the Gate Ministry which, every Wednesday, seeks to meet physical and spiritual needs of seekers at Central’s gate in Arcadia. Physical assistance is provided in terms of bread, tinned food (currently from the Christmas tin collection), and clothing. But there is more... each week also features a group meeting with Bible reading and teaching.

The Bible study is in an interactive format, Freddy says “... we are encouraged to see that many of are no more coming for food only but to hear the word of God”, and some even return on Sundays. Four members of the group, Gordon Seekoei, Gilbert Masheko, Peter Mashilo and Mbonani have been chosen by Sunnyside Methodist Church to go for some training in Gemiston for three weeks with a prospect of job placement

after the training. They thank the Lord for the opportunity. All the people are grateful to the church for the assistance they get! The need is great and Freddy says they need men’s clothing items in particular. Here is an opportunity for you to be involved personally – why not use it?

The Gate Ministry is one of several ways in which Central is formally reaching out to the community, the other opportunity involves serving prisoners. Every week Deon and Elmien Haasbroek minister to the staff and inmates of the Zonderwater prison in Cullinan. Study material from Bible Way is core to this ministry. This material is structured as a series of modules that seeks to introduce and explain key biblical concepts. Responses to questions included in the modules are evaluated to assess the candidates’ grasp and understanding of the biblical teaching that is being presented. Deon, who is cleared for access into the prison, enters the prison on a weekly basis delivering and collecting the material, and holding Bible studies with the wardens. Elmien assists with the administration and marking of the study modules. Les Bray serves in sourcing and collecting the material from the West Rand. Recent months has seen the demand exceeding the supply which led to an increase in budgeted expenditure for this activity in the current Central budget cycle. This increased scope is allowing more people to be reached with the truth of God’s word and what must surely be Good News.

The other on-going outreach ministry is that of Evangelism Explosion, or “EE3” as it is popularly known. Noel Durrheim leads this ministry, currently with assistance from Johan and Engeli Beukman. Several key participants, praise God, have faithfully remained involved over a number of years training and leading visitation teams in personal evangelism. EE3 is a structured personal evangelism tool and is effectively taught in a non-threatening manner. Experienced trainers demonstrate the tool through on-the-job training where trainees initially are simply observers. Gradually, as the tool is learned and confidence is increased, trainees are given the opportunity, under the supervision of experienced trainers, to share their faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ in a structured manner. It is this structured presentation of the gospel that I value most from my association with EE3.

I would suggest that many professing believers are not able to make a clear, biblically backed, presentation of the gospel, supported by personal testimony. EE3 provides an opportunity to make this possible. The EE3 training takes the form of a course and is run in two 14 week semesters every year with meetings and visitation taking place on Monday nights. The course is offered at various levels from the basic evangelism tool, to dealing with objections to the gospel, and growth and discipleship. The last two semesters have seen about eight teams, each of three people, sharing the gospel with church and non-church contacts in our city. Why not take up Noel’s invitation: “Are you finding it difficult to witness? Consider undergoing training in personal evangelism and experience the joy of being able to share the

Good News effectively with family members, friends and neighbours!”

These are some of the formal outreach activities that Central is involved in. But outreach is more than a few church programs. It is a shift in focus from ourselves to others – something we are all called to do. In God’s view, greatness is achieved by serving others, following the example of Jesus “who did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life to redeem many people”. And, yes, serving and giving takes more than intellectual assent. Don’t leave it to someone else to welcome the visitor in church...make it your job. People walking out of Central must not be afforded the excuse that “nobody spoke to me” when considering returning. Resist the temptation to avert eye contact and avoid meeting with a stranger. Make it your job to engage with, to know, and to serve people. It may be that you and I are the only ones God can use to reach our respective circles of contacts with His gospel.

I was reminded of some haunting words that form part of Petra’s ballad, *Just reach out*:

***Standing in a crowd, but still all alone  
Crying out for answers that nobody knows  
Everybody’s busy looking out for themselves  
Is there anyone who really cares about anyone else?***

Is there? Thank God for those who serve faithfully and who are ministering with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The need remains great. Pray for much wisdom to reach out in these and other ways that honour God.

***For more information about EE3 contact Noel Durrheim,  
Tel. 012 361 7264, or email [noelandirisd@telkomsa.net](mailto:noelandirisd@telkomsa.net)***



# "THOU SAYEST IT..."

by Alan S. Campbell

What I have written I have written  
And though I see no guilt in this young Man,  
Yet have I had Him soundly smitten  
With scourges, to fulfill your plan.  
Question not that I wrote 'King of the Jews'  
As the epitaph to surmount His cross –  
'Tis you have forced on me to bruise  
And mock this Prophet's life to total loss.  
You made me loose Barabbas in his stead,  
Then made a crown of inter-twining thorn  
And crushed it, mocking, on His humbled head –  
I could not see that He deserved such scorn.

Thus, burdened with His cross, I watch Him sway,  
Surrounded by the hordes, their bloodlust high –  
The death-march of His final living day –  
To spend it pinioned out against the sky.  
See how He stumbles 'neath His heavy load,  
As if His cares were more than just His own.  
A stranger stops and helps Him down the road  
With aid short-lived, for He will die alone.  
I see Him in my mind upon that hill –  
On either side by real crim'nals flanked –  
And He believes He does His Father's will,  
His own import with God of heaven ranked.

I doubt not His disciples will be there.  
Perhaps His mother, too, will stand and mourn.  
I wonder if when soldiers strip Him bare  
He'll forgive them for the cross, the nail, the thorn?  
Yet, why do I stand musing on His fate?  
What does it matter who He claimed to be?  
A few short hours is all they have to wait  
And their champion will be dead upon that tree.  
Still, nagging doubt persists within my heart,  
So 'till He's gone, I never will be sure  
To show the world I took reluctant part,  
I'll wash my hands and think of Him no more!

A soldier runs to tell me how it went,  
When the sky grew dark and thunder barked about.  
Some say the temple's inner veil was rent  
At the moment when this Prophet's light went out.  
And He tells me of the words that Jesus cried  
In the hours that agonized before His death –  
How He promised one who hung there at His side  
Paradise when he had breathed his final breath.  
When at last His pain and suff'ring reached an end.  
To His Father He proclaimed with clamant shout,  
"In your hands My very Spirit I commend",  
Then His light of life forever flickered out.

They say there was no need to break His bones  
Yet, nonetheless, they pierced His tortured side,  
Then from the crowd rose sympathetic moans,  
As blood and water ran in flowing tide.  
Within His tomb He lies in total rest,  
Beyond the veil of suff'ring and of pain  
To save Him this, I tried my utmost best –  
I feel the need to wash my hands again.

What's that you say? The stone is rolled away –  
The man I crucified has disappeared?  
And men have walked and talked with Him this day?  
This is the possibility I feared!  
So, Jesus Christ is risen as He vowed,  
Which none except the Son of God could do,  
And I was swayed to give Him to the crowd –  
He was indeed a most unusual Jew.

Now, though I wash my hands for evermore,  
It will not change the part I had to play,  
Nor can mankind from this day forth ignore  
That Jesus is the Christ and lives today!

—— Submitted by Kelly Odendaal ——



# The 2014 Glenhaven Fete



The annual Glenhaven Fete, which took place on the 3rd of May, was once again an enjoyable morning out for all who attended. Besides browsing through stalls offering various eats, home produce, toys, plants, as well as knitting and needle work, visitors could relax in the coffee shop, while the young (and young at heart) could partake in activities such as face painting, pony rides, and a jumping castle. As usual the various white elephant stalls, which

also operate throughout the year, proved a popular destination. The well-organised event produced a net income of just more than R130,000 on the day of the fete, which contributed to a net income of almost R270,000 for the 12 month fete period - a substantial increase from the preceding year. All profits are ploughed back into Glenhaven to help residents in need of financial assistance.



*Photo's by Michelle Geurink, Chanelle Radley, Colleen Skinner and Sarie Wilken*



# ROWING DOWN THE ORANGE RIVER



Under the guidance of Tim van Stormbroek, a group of 24 Centralites and friends spent three glorious late April days rowing a section of the Orange River where it forms the border between South Africa and Namibia. The route started at the Amanzi River Camp in the vicinity of the Noordoewer / Vioolsdrif border post, and ended near Aussenkehr, approximately 65km west down the river.

*Photo's by Gerrit Jansen van Rensburg*



*Matt, Tim and Petrus having a well-deserved lunch*



*Grant and Lerato prepares on the morning of departure*



*A group photo before the final morning of rowing gets underway*





*Packing the boats after a night under the stars*



*Lerato and AJ braving the rapids*



*Lauren and Adrian demonstrating their rowing skills*



*An inflatable boat can have more than one purpose!*





# *The Tree's Song in Winter - by Lauren*

Stripped bare of all its leaves,  
Yet roots and trunk and branches in place,  
Sustained by vital life from the roots.  
Feeling bare,  
Feeling vulnerable to the cold winter winds.

Who am I? It asks.  
Yet it reflects God's beauty as the snow reflects  
its image accurately.

Stripped of the pride it had in its leaves.  
Vulnerable.  
Its Creator watching over it to replenish,  
Revitalise,  
Restore.  
So that it can reflect His image accurately.  
Getting it ready for the next season so it can bear  
much fruit.

A little tree in winter.  
Its old leaves have dropped and been swept  
away.  
No beautiful leaves. No tasty fruit.  
Nothing to boast about.  
Just branches.  
Yet branches that are ALIVE!  
A living, sustaining sap flowing through them.  
Bruised but not broken.

Realising who it really is, it has nothing to boast  
about.  
It is nothing apart from its Creator.  
The Creator sees it for who it really is.  
Naked. Bare. Exposed.  
Now everyone else also sees it for what it is.  
It hangs its head in shame.

The Creator sees its nakedness. Sees how it has  
been exposed.  
The Creator delights in it, even in this season.  
The Creator sees the future and has a plan in His  
pruning!

Stripped to its bare essentials it realises, apart  
from my Creator, nothing I am.  
I only live because of His vital sap running  
through my veins!  
But how I am exposed to the cold winds!  
How lonely am I.  
Will I make it through this season?  
It is dreary. I am weary.  
When will spring come?

Time to be pruned!  
What miserable little fruit you bore last season!  
Who are you really, little tree? What were you made  
for?

I cut off branches, little tree, that you may have  
stronger, healthier branches.  
I prepare you for the next season.  
I want to see abundant, tasty fruit.  
I don't want your branches to be broken because of  
their weight.

Ow! Why are you cutting off THAT branch?  
I rather liked that one! It bore quite a lot of fruit,  
don't you remember?  
Can't I keep it?

The fruit was fair, but it can be better.  
Tastier, juicier, more nourishing.  
I know what I am doing!

It is snowing. Brr, it's cold. Oh so dreary.  
I am miserable. I am weary.  
I have so little strength.  
How I long for warmer weather.  
I want leaves again, I want to bear fruit, I want to  
provide shade!  
How I miss that branch that you cut off!

In time it will grow again, little tree.  
Remain in me.  
You see that branch? It was a bit skew.  
I want it to grow healthy and new.  
This is the season for replenishing.  
Come drink this sap.  
It will make you strong.  
It is I to whom you belong.  
I will give you a new song before long.

Before that, however, I have need to strip you down.  
Once you thought you were a star!  
Do you now see how you are?

This is the real me,  
Created and loved by my Creator,  
Painfully pruned,  
Missing the old branches.

YET vital sap runs through my veins.  
I will not be snapped,  
I will be sustained!  
I can't boast of anything except what He has done for  
me.  
Now I see! To lift His name up He made even me, a  
little fruit tree!



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# pilates

For both  
men @ women

Every Monday

19:00 – 20:00

@ The Hill Campus

Contact: Fiona

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**LIFE@central**