

# LIFE @central



Central Baptist Church, Pretoria

*March 2013*





# PASTOR'S CORNER

*by Charles de Kiewit [Senior Pastor]*

**Dear friends**

Having tasted some of the greatness of God last year we do want to look forward to see more of what He will do among us here at Central. Not only did we see the expansion of our church onto another campus but we also saw individual people grow in their love for God and their desire to continue to 'taste and see that the Lord is good'.

I have chosen *Deuteronomy 3:24* as a theme text for this year of ministry as we continue to do the work of gospel ministry here in our lovely city.

*'O Lord GOD, you have only begun to show your servant your greatness and your mighty hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as yours?'*

Here are some of our thoughts and plans for ministry during 2013:

The **church camp** will be in the warm month of February with the intention of keeping costs as low as possible to enable as many people as possible to attend. Our speaker this year, Chris Anderson from Margate, will focus on the topic "God can do more". We are trusting God to challenge us to trust Him for that which can alone be attributed to Him.

**Outreach** is another area of focus this year. We are planning a major weekend emphases; one over Easter and the other in the early weeks of spring. The intention is to encourage each other to be actively involved in praying for unsaved family and friends seeking to expose them to the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We would like to

provide training as well as useful tracts to equip ourselves in this task of evangelism.

Evangelism we believe ought also to be part of **our everyday lives** sharing with people where we 'live, work and play'. Let us work together trusting God to add to His church those who being saved.

At a recent leaders retreat it was agreed to be more deliberate in the elders taking greater responsibility in **shepherding** the 'flock' through the home group in partnership with the home group leaders. We plan to promote this emphasis this year giving elders identified districts to be more involved with members in their designated areas.

God has wonderfully provided resources during this past year. He has done more than we could ever have imagined. I am convinced we need to continue to trust God beyond what we think is a safe budget. Let us continue to give Him thanks for His continued faithfulness in providing for ministry here at Central and further afield.

Our interest and **partnership in missions** must continue to grow as we share in the task of world missions. We will continue to do this through existing church appointed missionaries, members in missions, short term missions and projects.

There is so much more I could add but will leave it for now. I am looking forward to this year as we work together in gospel ministry to the glory of God.

**Charles**



# CARING MINISTRY

*by Eric Robbins [Assistant Pastor]*



## "YOU REALLY MUST..."

The beginning of another year is the time to set your self some new personal goals. And there is one thing you really need to consider as a priority in 2013.

**You really must** join one of the church small groups in your neighbourhood this year!

But what is the point of being part of a small group? Let me share a few of the most compelling reasons with you.

1) **Getting into the Word.** Discussing the Sunday message during the following week will help you understand it better and make it your own. This is how you grow as a Christian not just be listening and more than likely forgetting what God has said

2) **An opportunity to pray.** We really do need to be praying together, and a small group is a great platform to begin to do that. It is less intimidating than the church prayer meeting where you are perhaps hesitant to pray out loud.

3) **Making new friends.** This fellowship side of the small group is so important in a big church like Central. Your group become your friends, those you can really relate to and share with.

4) **Reaching Out.** Small groups are like the entrance to the church. Most of your unsaved friends would think twice about attending church but may be willing to "come over" and meet some of your friends.

5) **Worshipping God.** You can hear the preachers and worship leaders lead in worship every Sunday. But being able to participate in worship together with friends each week is an amazing experience.

So **you really must** join one of our small groups this year. Speak to me and I will be able to point you in the right direction.

**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://central.org.za>

Previous editions (2006 to 2012) are also available.

Edited by Wambui Gititu and Daniel Salzwedel.



# FROM TEMPORARY GRIEF TO LASTING JOY

by Andrew Murray

Exactly four months after my wife Pippa passed away, I had the opportunity to preach on grief and the lasting nature of joy based on the book of John chapter 16 verses 19 to 33. During that week, prior to giving the sermon on grief, a man had visited me and shared his experience; his father committed suicide when he was 7, and later his sister gassed herself. I realised that one's own grief seems great until one hears the experiences of others.

It's a fact that we will experience set-backs, disappointments, losses, tears and sorrow. Grief is guaranteed for every person on earth. Grief and sorrow stem primarily from separation, and every person experiences separation in one form or another. This separation may not even be physical, but could be emotional. The first separation was between Adam and Eve from God. This separation has caused all other subsequent separations. It is why we are born separated from God, and this continues until there is a rebirth.

When I scan through the Scriptures, I find that separation was never God's intention for His creatures. Sin brought about separation as stated in Isaiah 59:2 "but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear". God intended perfect union between Himself and us, and us with one another. However,

in this fallen world we will experience the pain of separation until the Second Coming of Christ, when our salvation will finally be completed.

When going through a difficult time one may not understand what God is doing or saying. It becomes difficult to discern God's voice from all the other voices that one hears. Even worse, we begin to wonder who is to blame. It is not wrong to ask the big 'WHY', but then we must wait patiently for the answer; some questions will eventually be answered in this life, others only in eternity. From the gospels it is clear that Jesus took time to answer people's questions even when those who asked were doing so as a result of unbelief. It would seem that one reason why God does not always give instant answers is because we are in no position to receive the answers at that particular stage of our lives.

There is so much confusion about why 'good people suffer'; for some it is because of the devil's work, for others because of unbelief, and others it is God's punishment for sin, while for others it is just fate. Romans 8:18-23 makes it clear that for the most part, bad things happen because we are part of a fallen world, a creation which is in 'bondage to decay' (v. 21). This is because of original sin, not ever as punishment for our own sin, as that was taken by Jesus on the Cross for those

who've been redeemed, and for those who are lost, the punishment awaits in eternity. There may be discipline for those who are God's children, as Hebrews 12:5-11 indicates.

In John 16 verse 21 Jesus uses the analogy of childbirth; When a woman is about to give birth, she is in great pain. But after it is all over, she forgets the pain and is happy, because she has brought a child into the world. In the Psalms there is another analogy that men can relate to more readily! In Psalm 126: verse 5 to 6 it is written that "those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who goes forth and weeps, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him". It seems clear that when God wants to bring forth new life, or do something new, there will be some pain involved. That is what it cost Jesus when He brought new life for us, not some pain, but ultimate pain; for us the principle is the same, though our pain cannot be compared with His.

Grief is temporal, it is for a season and it too shall pass, though it may feel like it will never end while we are going through it. I have learned that even though a wilderness experience is painful it must be completed for new life to begin. There is no short-cut for a healthy baby to be born; it takes a full 9 months of waiting, anything short of that causes complications. Pop psychology, even the Christian version, positive thinking and speaking, are like mushrooms which spring up over-night, but disappear with the heat of the sun. Only that which is tried and tested will endure, that which is born from birth pains, the sowing-in-tears principle, has substance and will produce lasting fruit.

When walking through grief, I have learnt that it is not essential to see God's hand clearly in every circumstance, as long I know and believe that He sees me in all that

I am going through. Think about Hagar Abraham's slave, she found herself alone, homeless in the wilderness, pregnant with Abraham's child, after Sarah had treated her so badly. God met her there at a well, and then we read these words in Genesis 16:13-14; Hagar thought, "Have I really seen God and lived to tell about it? So from then on she called Him, The God Who Sees Me. That's why people call the well between Kadesh and Bered, "The Well of the Living One Who Sees Me". Take comfort, He sees you too. He sees you every time you weep, hurt, suffer rejection, persecution, or even when you are just going through a difficult time. He sees you!

When our time of grief is over, for grief is surely temporary, we will know that God has not only seen, but has been intensely and personally involved in ALL we have endured. What follows is guaranteed: PURE JOY! Psalm 30 verse 5 says, "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning". Praise God, weeping will pass, and eventually joy comes to stay!

Jesus makes this abundantly clear, after the wonderful analogy of childbirth: "So it is with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy" (John 16:22).

This joy is not earth-bound, because it is heaven-sent; it is not time-bound, because it is eternal; it is not person-bound, because it is God-given; it is not emotionally-bound, because it is spiritual; it is not circumstantially-bound, because it is indifferent to anything you and I may be going through at the moment.

In my experience the most solid basis for comfort and healing in times of grief and pain is the Resurrection and Second Coming of Jesus Christ! He has risen - He is alive, and He is coming back to fetch His children! Nothing and nobody can change that Fact!



# HANG IN THERE

## NEVER ... NEVER ... NEVER ... GIVE UP!

by Noel Durrheim

**Sir Winston Churchill**, an iconic figure in the history of Great Britain and an imposing colossus in rallying the Allied Forces against Nazi Imperialism during World War II, was invited by his alma mater to address the student body. Standing at the podium, fixing his eyes, which peered out over his spectacles on the crowd of boys, he delivered the most memorable oration ever made by a former student in that school's history. The characteristically gruff voice rumbled: **"Young gentlemen, never give up, never, never give up. Never... never... never..."** and he sat down.



Lee Strobel, a pastor of one of the largest churches in America, the Willow Creek Church, relates how he was about to baptise a sixty-something woman who was accompanied by a brawny, tough looking man a few years her senior. He looked like a construction worker, his leathery skin deeply etched with lines. Strobel, prompted by the Holy Spirit, asked the man in a sincere and concerned tone, "Have you given your life to Jesus?" He looked surprised and offended and glared at his questioner. Then his face screwed up into a pained expression and Lee didn't know what would happen – would he hit him? Suddenly the man burst into tears and wept uncontrollably. Then

the man confessed that he was a sinner and received forgiveness through Christ, and was baptised together with his wife.

At the end of the service, as Lee stepped off the platform, a woman he did not know came bounding up and threw her arms around him, sobbing on his shoulder she called out: "Nine years... nine years... nine years..." He was totally flustered by this and asked her, "Who are you, and what do you mean – nine years?" She looked up at him with eyes red from tears – "That's my sister-in-law you baptised and that's my brother whom you led to Christ and baptised with her. I have been praying for that man for nine long years and I have never seen one hint of spiritual interest or awakening in him, but look what God did today!"

Attention is now drawn to a case nearer to home that extends over a period of more than forty years. John (not his real name) was a perfectionist and a tough task master, who by dint of his determination and diligence was promoted to the most senior position in his division, of one of the largest industrial corporations in South Africa. The corporation's activities, which ranged from exploration for minerals, mining to manufacturing of steel products, spread across Sub-Saharan Africa, and at one stage had a workforce of approximately 60 000 people. In order to fulfil his obligations, John was required to do a considerable amount of travelling locally and abroad.

Unfortunately these trips were fraught with worldly temptations to indulge in "wine, women and song." High-level discussions with management were often followed by sumptuous meals and more than sufficient liquor to drown their



troubles. The administrator of the Division, who was a veteran World War II fighter pilot, when asked about John's whereabouts, had this stock answer: "He's gone to have a bottle of sandwiches."

I accompanied John on an extended overseas business trip, during which we often discussed important issues, including what happens to people after their physical death.

In due course John reached the mandatory retirement age, without showing any visible signs of changing for the better. It seemed to me that all the effort invested in praying for and witnessing to him had been utterly fruitless. Imagine my surprise at receiving a phone call from him, out of the blue, with an invitation to join him and his son-in-law for refreshments at a restaurant in Brooklyn. He confided in me that his daughter and her husband had applied to join a Christian Mission and that he would value my input. (You could have bowled me over with a proverbial feather!) To cut a long story short, the couple subsequently joined a Missionary Organisation with a base in Pretoria, and are currently serving the Lord full-time in Mozambique. (Incidentally, John's daughter had previously undergone training in Personal Evangelism at our church in Pretoria).

John's personal life was in total disarray. After marrying for the fourth time he decided to move and start a new life in a small town in the Cape, nearly twenty years ago. Iris (my wife) and I continued to pray for him and casual contact was maintained via telephone, mainly to commemorate birthdays, Christmas, etc. Over the past few years this contact gradually increased to weekly phone calls. The topic of conversation focused primarily on current affairs.



John's health recently deteriorated, the Lord

constrained me to challenge him regarding his eternal destiny. He responded by giving an honest reply that indicated that he was ill prepared for this. The Good News was shared via telephone, fax and snail mail. John subsequently professed having placed his trust in the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. "PRAISE THE LORD!"

The focal point of subsequent telephonic sessions, which we had every Monday morning, was the time we spent in studying the Bible. (On numerous occasions John referred to these chats on the phone as being his "lifeline") On Monday, 31 December 2012, we had just completed our discussion on the Gospel of Mark Chap 15, contemplating the crucifixion of Jesus, when the phone cut out. John subsequently recorded the following message on my phone's answering facility: "Sorry we were cut off due to a power failure – talk to you again next week, love to all, chow-chow!" Little did he know that less than a week later, he would be with the Lord in heaven!

I received a telephonic request from John's wife, to write a tribute to John, which would be shared at his funeral. This being the first time that I had been asked to do something like this, I devoted considerable prayerful thought to this task and closed the tribute with the following challenge: "Have you made your peace with God? And are you ready as John was to face eternity?"

Dear friend, are you concerned about the spiritual well-being of a family member, friend, colleague or neighbour? Don't stop praying for their salvation. Where possible, consider enlisting a prayer partner to join you in intercession.

The Lord Jesus Christ promised: ***"If two of you agree down here on earth, concerning anything you ask for, My Father in heaven will do it for you."*** (Matt 18:19)

**KEEP ON PRAYING... NEVER... NEVER... NEVER GIVE UP!**

**"With God All Things Are Possible" (Matt 19:26)**

For further information, contact Noel:  
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# WOMEN'S VALUE

*A letter from Carol*

*Did you know ...*

*The much loved hymn "To God be the Glory" was probably written in 1872 by Fanny Jane Crosby who lived between 1820 and 1915?*

*This song was taken to England by Ira Sankey, who led the singing for DL Moody's evangelistic campaigns. The hymn became immediately popular in England, but was published in only a few American hymnals until Billy Graham rediscovered the song during his 1952 British crusade. Only then did it become as popular in America as it had been in England.*

*Joy was a characteristic of Fanny Crosby's life and it was hard to discourage her. When English hymnwriter Frances Havergal asked someone about Crosby, she received the reply, "She is a blind lady whose heart can see splendidly in the sunshine of God's love".*

*Crosby herself acknowledged, "Darkness may throw a shadow over my outer vision, but there is no cloud than can keep the sunlight of hope from a trustful soul".*

*I was so blessed and also challenged, to read this in the One Year Book of Hymns. Here I have good eyesight (okay – maybe not as good as it was 5 years ago!), I have so many daily blessings which I enjoy and yet I wonder if people see the sunshine of God's love in my life!*

*Do you shine brightly the sunshine of God's life from your life every day?*

**Dear Friend,**

I would like to share with you what is in the line up for King's Rubies this year.

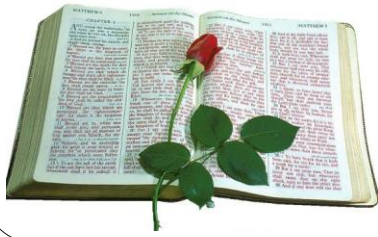
First let me share with you some of the results of our survey which we conducted towards the end of last year ...

- The majority of the ladies wanted Kings Rubies to be held bi-monthly;
- The same amount of ladies preferred a Saturday morning to a Saturday afternoon meeting but "I don't mind" tipped the scale by 3, so we have decided to include mornings and afternoons in our planning; and
- You were all happy to pay for your meal and you all enjoy our current format.

The far majority felt the topics we cover were relevant to their lives and believed that they had grown spiritually through the talks we received.

It was good to get requests for topics you ladies would like us to cover and so we have done our best to include these in our planning for this year. Some of the requested topics do not apply to everybody so we have decided to have a day seminar with elective sessions where you can





# WOMEN'S VALUE

choose which talks you would like to attend. This will be held in May at the Hill Campus.

So in order to help you organise your life and block out your diary for these dates, here is what we have planned for you for this year:

| Date   | Time           | Venue    | Topic  | Speaker   | Colour                 |
|--------|----------------|----------|--|---|------------------------|
| 19 Jan | 08h30          | Arcadia  | I am Adopted are You?  | Michelle Simpson  | Pink & Blue            |
| 16 Mar | 15h00          | Arcadia  | Life and Health  | Charles De Kiewit   | Green                  |
| 11 May | 08h00 to 16h00 | The Hill | Disciplining Children<br>Living with your Singleness<br>Stretching the Rand<br>Living with an Unbeliever<br>Coping with Retirement | Lois Mixon<br>Janet Cooper<br><br>Alice Jones<br>Dorothy Hansungule<br>Paul & Ethne Jones | Colours of the Rainbow |
| 20 Jul | 12h30          | Arcadia  | Depression & Anxiety   | Debbie Holloway   | Black                  |
| 14 Sep | 08h30          | Arcadia  | Integrity, Honesty & Commitment  | Beth de Swardt  | Silver                 |

If you have never been to a King's Rubies meeting before, how about joining us and bringing a friend with you? All women are invited; so no matter your age please come.

Blessings to you all and may I leave the words of that wonderful hymn with you.

*To God be the glory – great things He hath done  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the earth hear His voice,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory  
– great things He hath done!*

*O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!  
To every believer the promise of God;  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.*

*Great things He hath taught us,  
Great things He hath done  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see*

**Luv and laughter**

**Carol**



# WOMEN'S VALUE

by Lana Pelsner

## *Some summer salads*

### "WHEN YOU SAY SUMMER I SAY BRAAI..."

From [www.hartford.co.za](http://www.hartford.co.za)

The following recipes put a feminine touch to the predominantly male braai. They are unusual yet quick and easy.

Firm, plump, rosy-red tomatoes with a slight acidity are perfect for my Italian salad. Topped with a soft ball of buffalo mozzarella, home-pressed basil pesto, lemon-marinated artichokes, juicy olives, thinly sliced salami and a fresh grind of black pepper. The result is many sensational flavours. A real wow!

A braai "aint" a braai without the humble butternut. Try this roasted and pan-caramelised butternut salad served with brown lentils, "shisa" red chillies, seared tender baby leeks and creamy feta cheese. It provides for an interesting combination of slightly sweet and savoury. Tantalising!

An entire salad devoted to the versatile avocado is nutritious and tasty. The sliced red onion awakens the palate allowing the flavours to come through. Fresh green apples, bean sprouts and the optional extra of smoked salmon enhance everything the avo has to offer. Delicious!

Strawberries are superb now, I suggest a strawberry, Parma ham, blue cheese and walnut salad, with fresh rocket leaves. The saltiness of the blue cheese and Parma ham compliments the sweetness of the fruit. Sensational!

Also in season is green asparagus. In its case I believe the simpler the better. A platter of blanched asparagus drizzled with a maltaise sauce (similar to a hollandaise but flavoured with loads of freshly squeezed orange juice and orange zest) is ideal for a hot summer day. Scrumptious!

### DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE RELATIONSHIP IS BETWEEN YOUR TWO EYES?

They blink together, they move together, they cry together,  
They see things together, and they sleep together,  
BUT THEY NEVER SEE EACH OTHER...  
that's what friendship is.



# WOMEN'S VALUE

## *I believe ...*

I believe today will be a good day because God made it.  
(Psalm 118:24)

I believe I have all I need to accomplish His purpose in my life.  
(2 Peter 1:3)

I believe nothing is too difficult for me because nothing is impossible for the God who lives in me.  
(Philippians 4:13)

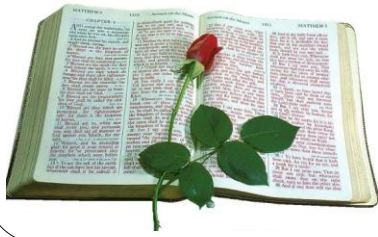
I believe even the biggest challenges in my life can be redeemed for my good and His glory.  
(Romans 8:28)

I believe I am loved just as I am and called to become even more like Jesus every day.  
(Hebrews 10:14)

I believe that He isn't finished with me yet and is able to complete the good work begun in me.  
(Philippians 1:6)

I believe I am an over comer, more than a conqueror, and nothing will keep God from carrying out His plans!  
(Romans 8:32-39)





# WOMEN'S VALUE

*Pretty flowers all in a row*

***"And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." Matthew 6:29.***

Flowers are one of the most beautiful things God created. Many flowers have come to have several different meanings. We will take a look at just four of them to see what we can learn.

## ***Aster - Contentment***

Asters are those pretty little (mostly) white flowers that have a yellow centre. I think they look like wild daisies. One of the meanings associated with the aster flower is contentment. They are simple yet pretty flowers and they do give me that sense of contentment. Those words in Philippians come to mind.

*Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. Philippians 4:11.*

Contentment sure is a nice place to be in our lives. Isn't it? No matter what the circumstances we have that ease of satisfaction. When we are content, we end up caring more because we don't allow things around us to get us off track. It's being able to push forward and have that peace no matter what the circumstances.

## ***Camellia - Graciousness***

I have a lot of favourite flowers and Camellias are right there towards the top of my list. I have a large Camellia bush beside my front porch. The flowers make me smile every time I pass them.

The meaning associated with the camellia is graciousness. I think that's a word we don't hear used much anymore and we certainly

don't see it displayed much. It means excellence of manners or social conduct. Shouldn't we as Christian women embody that?

I think if we want to be in full bloom as Christian women we really need to concentrate on being gracious.

*A gracious woman retaineth honour... Proverbs 11:16.*

## ***Larkspur - Beautiful Spirit***

The Larkspur is a pretty flower. I've mostly seen them in purple but they can be other colours as well. One of the meanings associated with the Larkspur is a "beautiful spirit". Wow. That's something to strive for. I've always loved that verse in 1 Peter where it is talking about a "meek and quiet spirit". Now that is a "beautiful" spirit for a Christian lady.

*But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. 1 Peter 3:4*

## ***Black Eyed Susan - Encouragement***

I've always admired the Black Eyed Susan. They are so bright and striking that I think they normally contrast everything around them. The meaning of the Black Eyed Susan is encouragement.

I sure love to be around encouraging people. People that give you that special word you need just at that moment or are there to cheer you on in whatever you are doing at the time.



# WOMEN'S VALUE

Those bright people definitely contrast with those around them.

Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

*Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. Ephesians 4:29.*

*So are your flowers all in a row?*

*Julia Bettencourt - [www.juliabettencourt.com](http://www.juliabettencourt.com)*

## Funny bulletin bloopers

Applications are now being accepted for 2 year-old nursery workers.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the church help.

The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.

22 members were present at the church meeting held at the home of Mrs. Marsha Crutchfield last evening. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why.

There is a sign-up sheet for anyone wishing to be baptised on the table in the foyer.



### Sermon Outline:

- I. Delineate your fear
- II. Disown your fear
- III. Displace your rear

Visiting Missionary: Bertha Belch.  
Announcement: "Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa".

Source: Google



# Church Camp 2013

Photographed by  
the Harralds

**God can do more!** That was the theme for the 2013 church camp held at Paradeisos Camp Site, North East of Pretoria. This weekend away brought together about 180 people (including those that came for the day only). Rev Chris Anderson from Margate Baptist Church was the main speaker during the church camp.

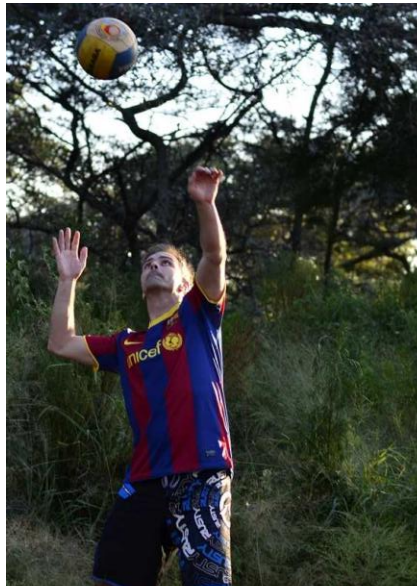
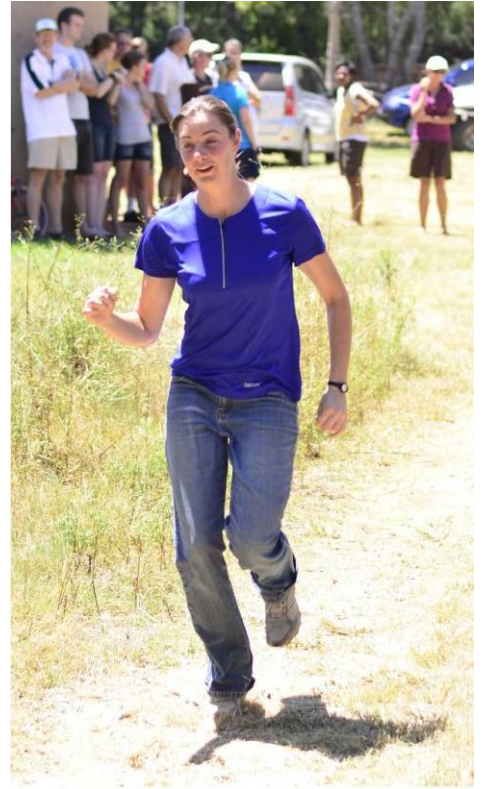
Activities included bug hunting, bird viewing,

swimming in the dam & pool, mountain biking, Saturday evening skits and team sports. It was in one of the team sport that old men crushed the young men to retain the title of volley ball champions.

Thumbs up to Brenda, Gerrie and Duncan Knoesen who did the cooking and for Tim who organised the camp.









# AROUND THE WORLD ...



or what the “young” people at  
Haven Village Retirement Centre is up to!

*by Lana Pelsner*

Image: www.kozzi.com

***Several of the folks went overseas during the last year. Here are some of the stories:***

## AUSTRALIA

***This well-travelled granny has been all over Australia and knows the country well. In 2012 she visited the grandchildren in Canberra.***

If one can survive the long flight to get there, and the sporting rivalries, Australia is probably one of the easiest countries for South Africans to visit. Apart from the fact that Australians speak English (sort of), if you feel homesick you just need to listen in a public place and you will probably hear some Afrikaans as well. Australians drive on the same side of the road as we do but the difference is that they drive carefully, as it is all too easy to have your licence revoked for traffic transgressions!

Like South Africa, Australia is literally a world in one country with a very wide range of scenery and climatic types. The population is mainly concentrated around the coast and the vast hot, dry centre of the country is mostly uninhabited. Sydney is a world class city, and Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane, Adelaide and Canberra are all large cities with many tourist attractions. Further up the east coast Cairns is the base for the Great Barrier Reef and even further north Darwin is known as one of the hottest and most uncomfortable places to live.

If you have time to spend, the ideal way to see the country properly would be to hire a campervan and just go where the fancy takes you. Away from the cities there are fascinating little towns where prospectors

still delve for minerals and one can meet the most interesting characters. Most coastal towns and some further inland have very well-equipped and convenient camper parks where one can either camp or rent a fully equipped cabin or stationary caravan at a very reasonable price. The beaches are wonderful and the Australians are easy-going and very friendly.

Australia is definitely a country worth visiting!

## USA, DISNEYWORLD, ETC.

Having children and grandchildren who live overseas and require babysitters from time to time means that if grannies have the necessary passports and are available, they are excited about jumping on an airplane and flying across the sea to spend quality time with them. I thank the Lord for the opportunity I had to visit my ‘overseas family’ twice last year.

At the end of January I went to London for two weeks and in November I went to Atlanta, USA for a month, where my son and his family are now living. A couple of the highlights of the USA visit was sharing Thanksgiving with them and a week-long visit to Disneyworld, where I was encouraged to join them on many adrenalin-inducing rides! Skype is a great advantage these days, but being able to live with my family for a few weeks is just wonderful. I thank the Lord for these opportunities.

## AUSTRALIA

***This time Brisbane, visited by another, now a great-grandmother with a great grandchild in Cape Town!***

What a joy spending time with my family in Brisbane, Ozzieland – land of Kangaroo and Koala Bear. The province of Queensland is a land of forests, flowers and rivers. Brisbane is near the coast, built on both sides of the Brisbane River. One can go on several walks along the river or in the forest. One can also visit the ocean liners there or go on a catamaran on the river to watch the river flowing upstream when the tide comes in!

## USA - GEORGIA

We had the pleasure of visiting our daughter who lives in Cumming, Georgia, USA.

The hurricane season was on its height when we arrived and that very night our daughter advised us to pack our most essentials in a small bag and when the siren goes to meet them on the stairwell that leads to the basement. I said “how will we know that it is the hurricane warning siren” and she said “You will know”. God kept His Hand upon us and in spite of two days of warnings on TV, Cumming was spared but not so a neighbouring town.

Our grandson is the music ministry Pastor, and his wife the Youth Pastor of Assembly. Their lead Pastor gave us the use of their holiday home in Destin which is in the Gulf of Mexico. We travelled in two 4X4's through Atlanta, Florida and Alabama to the Gulf. We have never experienced such white, fine sea sand before with schools of small fish swimming around us in clear, clear water. The dolphins were frolicking just off shore while stingrays came right to the beach front.

We ate out every night at a different restaurant – one of them called Fudpucker's where all visitors are asked to sign their names either on the walls, pillars, deck or tables. It was wonderful to spend our daughter's birthday and mother's day at the Gulf!

## ITALY

***Barging along the Po River (Northern Italy)***

Some old friends invited us and other “old” friends to go to Italy with them – the highlight then being the tour on the barge. We took another friend from HV with and met with 27 friends from KZN. We flew via Zurich to Florence. After 3 days visiting the “gems” of old Italy we went by bus via Bologna, the medieval city, to Venice.

Our water taxi took us to Giudecca Island where we boarded the Ave Maria, our home for 8 days. This delightful small ship, accommodating our party of 30, was manned by a captain, his assistant and a versatile crew of 3 who treated us like royalty!

As we navigated the broad Po river delta we had time to visit places like Chioggia, Padua, and Ferrara and then followed the Po canals as we moved upstream. Our relaxed cruise came to an end at Mantova.

Good company, good food and interesting visits enriched the lives of the Haven Villagers.

## SWITZERLAND

I went to visit my Missionary friends and some family members in Switzerland and stayed in Rüte, near Zürich. The Spring flowers were in full bloom and the great big Alps, still covered with snow, formed the





background. I was born in this lovely country and I thank God that I still have the strength to visit from time to time!

## SLOVENIA AND CROATIA (formerly Yugoslavia)

If the names of towns like Ljubljana (Slovenia) and Split (Croatia) sound unfamiliar – I’ve been there! I went with a tour group - by plane (5x), by bus (daily), by boat (motor, rowing, & pletna).

This tour left precious memories – walking around the medieval cities of Piran (S) and Dubrovnik (C) – both built on the edge of the land nearly in the sea - “feeling” the history of many wars and suffering surrounding you! Not to mention the castles we visited, where the lifestyles of centuries past were preserved or recreated – dungeons and all.

And what about the wonders of God, which no man can change or recreate: The deep

Postojna caves in Slovenia (so deep, one actually goes by way of a little train into the deep belly of the earth) and the most beautiful Plitvice lakes and waterfalls in Croatia.

My most favourite town was Bled in Slovenia - Impressive was the clean air, the woods, the lake and the mountains (Alps). A place where one can easily relocate to, was it not for the foreign language and the Catholicism!

As we flew with Turkish Airways we spent a day in Istanbul – not really my cup of tea!

## SAILING THE VAST SEAS!

At least 4 people went on different MSC luxury cruises. One lot to Namibia, some successfully to Mozambique, and others not so successful because of a hurricane warning!

## A PRAYER IN CLOSING

*Thank You God – for health, for the energy, for the resources and opportunities, for the finances, for safety in strange countries, for the will to explore, and most of all for Your goodness. We also want to thank you for this wonderful, beautiful, breath-taking world You created. Please bless it, and help us to preserve it for future generations. Amen.*

*Many congratulations to Lauren and Clayton Alexander who got married in Stellenbosch on 2 February 2013!*



# JUST DO IT ...

by Val Nowlan

*It's* some years ago now that I stood in the main entrance of Glenhaven, watching the passing scene. The first residents were moving in. This was 1984. A car drew up. Inside was a sprightly little 93+ lady with her son in his car. On the roof of the car was her bed! Inside, the car was packed to the roof with her personal possessions. This scene and similar, has been replicated many times over in succeeding decades.

Standing next to me on that occasion was the late Dr Chris Parnell. I let out an impassioned wail "Surely we should be recording this historic event....." He turned to me and said "Just do it Val" and walked off..... A lot of water has passed under 'bridge' since then – books have been written, scrapbooks compiled until the present time where a scrapbook I am compiling is growing as the history of The Hill campus unfolds.

I want to focus here on family history because let's face it many families are going to celebrate an historic event with the arrival of little ones in the immediate future. Dozens of grandparents are going to drool and sigh with happy smiles and the whole landscape of family life will begin to change. Oh I know – I can even hear the cry (of the parents!!) no time – how do we record family history? – why should we do it? Well those same little microbes in a couple of decades may well be asking questions about his/her parents – granny and grandpa.

How does it all hang together in writing? I've never done this sort of thing extensively on the computer other than to write the commentary. I use a lever arch file and find it most useful because I can always add snippets, photos, cards or anything later without upsetting the layout of the pages. A lot of the material I have filed in plastic sleeves. At the back of the file I've inserted photos of our grandparents, parents and other family pictures. These are followed (coming forward) by John's and my childhood, school, 'varsity, engagement and wedding pictures followed by photos of our two children from babyhood through school, varsity, marriage and children. We have six grandchildren (of our own!) – I have made a file like this for each of them. (We have the unique experience of fostered grandchildren coming and going in our Mooi River family, too fast for me to keep up with scrapbooks for them!). Keep it simple, accessible, interesting, sticky-finger-proof, something special and unique to your family and a growing characteristic of your family and your home.

JUST DO IT ..... too many 'oldies' regret the loss of all family and especially childhood records and memories. So get busy laying foundations for the structure that will forever record the history of your family for now and successive generations.



# What does

## *"coram Deo"*

## mean?

**I** remember Mama standing in front of me, her hands poised on her hips, her eyes glaring with hot coals of fire and saying in stentorian tones, "Just what is the big idea, young man?"

Instinctively I knew my mother was not asking me an abstract question about theory. Her question was not a question at all—it was a thinly veiled accusation. Her words were easily translated to mean, "Why are you doing what you are doing?" She was challenging me to justify my behavior with a valid idea. I had none.

Recently a friend asked me in all earnestness the same question. He asked, "What's the big idea of the Christian life?" He was interested in the overarching, ultimate goal of the Christian life. To answer his question, I fell back on the theologian's prerogative and gave him a Latin term. I said, "The big idea of the Christian life is *coram Deo*. *Coram Deo* captures the essence of the Christian life."

This phrase literally refers to something that takes place in the presence of, or before the face of, God. To live *coram Deo* is to live one's entire life in the presence of God, under the authority of God, to the glory of God. Tweet this, to live *coram Deo* is to live one's entire life in the presence of God, under the authority of God, to the glory of God.

To live in the presence of God is to understand that whatever we are doing and wherever we are doing it, we are acting under the gaze of God. God is omnipresent.

There is no place so remote that we can escape His penetrating gaze.

To be aware of the presence of God is also to be acutely aware of His sovereignty. The uniform experience of the saints is to recognize that if God is God, then He is indeed sovereign. When Saul was confronted by the refulgent glory of the risen Christ on the road to Damascus, his immediate question was, "Who is it, Lord?" He wasn't sure who was speaking to him, but he knew that whomever it was, was certainly sovereign over him.

Living under divine sovereignty involves more than a reluctant submission to sheer sovereignty that is motivated out of a fear of punishment. It involves recognizing that there is no higher goal than offering honor to God. Our lives are to be living sacrifices, oblations offered in a spirit of adoration and gratitude.

To live all of life *coram Deo* is to live a life of integrity. It is a life of wholeness that finds its unity and coherency in the majesty of God. A fragmented life is a life of disintegration. It is marked by inconsistency, disharmony, confusion, conflict, contradiction, and chaos.

The Christian who compartmentalizes his or her life into two sections of the religious and the nonreligious has failed to grasp the big idea. The big idea is that all of life is religious or none of life is religious. To divide life between the religious and the nonreligious is itself a sacrilege.



This means that if a person fulfills his or her vocation as a steelmaker, attorney, or homemaker coram Deo, then that person is acting every bit as religiously as a soul-winning evangelist who fulfills his vocation. It means that David was as religious when he obeyed God's call to be a shepherd as he was when he was anointed with the special grace of kingship. It means that Jesus was every bit as religious when He worked in His father's carpenter shop as He was in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Integrity is found where men and women

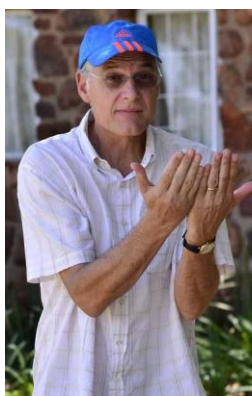
live their lives in a pattern of consistency. It is a pattern that functions the same basic way in church and out of church. It is a life that is open before God. It is a life in which all that is done is done as to the Lord. It is a life lived by principle, not expediency; by humility before God, not defiance. It is a life lived under the tutelage of conscience that is held captive by the Word of God.

Coram Deo ... before the face of God. That's the big idea. Next to this idea our other goals and ambitions become mere trifles.

*Rrom R.C. Sproul - <http://www.ligonier.org/blog/what-does-coram-deo-mean>*

*Submitted by Maggie Martin*

## More Church Camp Pictures



# RESULTS OF THE SA BIBLICAL LITERACY SURVEY

*Last year in August, the South African Theological Seminary (SATS) conducted an online Biblical literacy survey to find out the state of Biblical literacy amongst South African. Some members of Central took part in the survey and in this issue of Life@Central we are pleased to present a summary of the findings which was submitted by Dr. Reuben van Rensburg.*

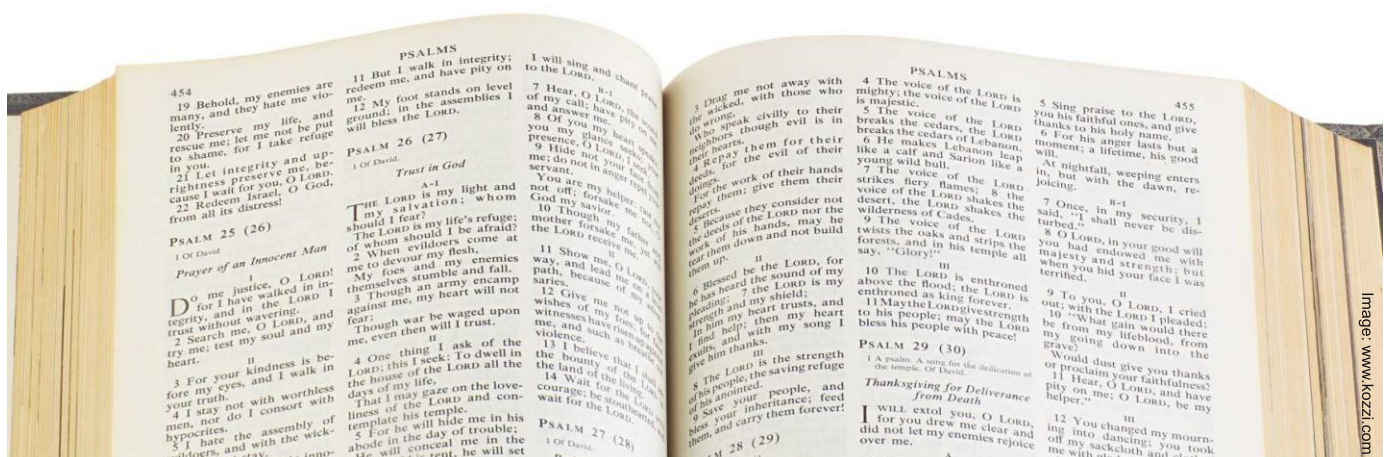
## ***Do South African Christians read, know, and believe the Bible?***

In America, research by the Barna Group shows that born-again Christians are often surprisingly ignorant of basic biblical teachings. We wanted to know the extent to which Christians in South Africa read, know, and believe the Bible. To obtain a partial answer, we ran an online survey which received 4151 responses, mostly from English and Afrikaans speakers, representing a broad cross-section of churches.

In general, the responses show a high level of commitment to read the Bible as the

Word of God and live by its teachings. Many read the Bible daily, and the majority have read most of it. Respondents expressed a high level of agreement with statements of biblical belief and morality, and indicated their commitment to search the Word of God to find the wisdom of God for daily life. For example:

- Eighty-three percent attend church weekly and 60 percent regularly attend a Bible study group.
- Sixty-seven percent read the Bible daily, and 67 percent usually read at least one





chapter per a sitting.

- Seventy-five percent have read all or most of the Old Testament, and 88 percent all or most of the New Testament.
- Christians learn most about the Bible by reading the Bible itself. They also learn a lot about the Bible from the preaching in their churches.
- Ninety-eight percent believe that the entire Bible is the Word of God, 99 percent that Jesus died for the forgiveness of sins, and 96 percent that faith in Jesus Christ is the only way to go to heaven.
- Ninety-eight percent believe that the Bible is relevant for today, and addresses the problems modern people face.

Despite the many positives, there are also some trends in the data that should concern us as church leaders and motivate us to act. Here are some examples.

- The younger a believer is, the less likely he or she is to read the Bible every day.
- Only 21 percent of respondents' families read the Bible together every day, and in the 20–29 age bracket the figure drops to 8 percent.
- A statistically significant minority believe that there are errors in the Bible.
- Believers are less likely to search the Scriptures for guidance regarding matters of sexuality than they are regarding other issues in their daily lives.
- In many church groupings, there is a statistically significant minority who disagree that the Bible prohibits cohabitation or homosexual practices.

These data are not representative of the entire church in South Africa. We, the South African Theological Seminary, work mainly online amongst existing or aspiring evangelical leaders who support our motto, 'Bible-based, Christ-centred, Spiritled'. As a result, our survey has attracted a high proportion of respondents who are deeply committed to their faith and their church, engage actively with the Word of God, and have a strongly evangelical worldview. Therefore, our survey results reflect a level of biblical knowledge and engagement that is likely much higher than the norm in the South African church.

The church in South Africa still needs to understand the extent to which Christians read, know, and believe the Bible. This survey made a start, but only reached a portion of the church in South Africa. We would like to see similar studies conducted amongst all churches and all people in South Africa.

The full report and the raw data from the survey will be available on the South African Theological Seminary's website ([www.satsonline.org](http://www.satsonline.org)) from 1 February 2013.

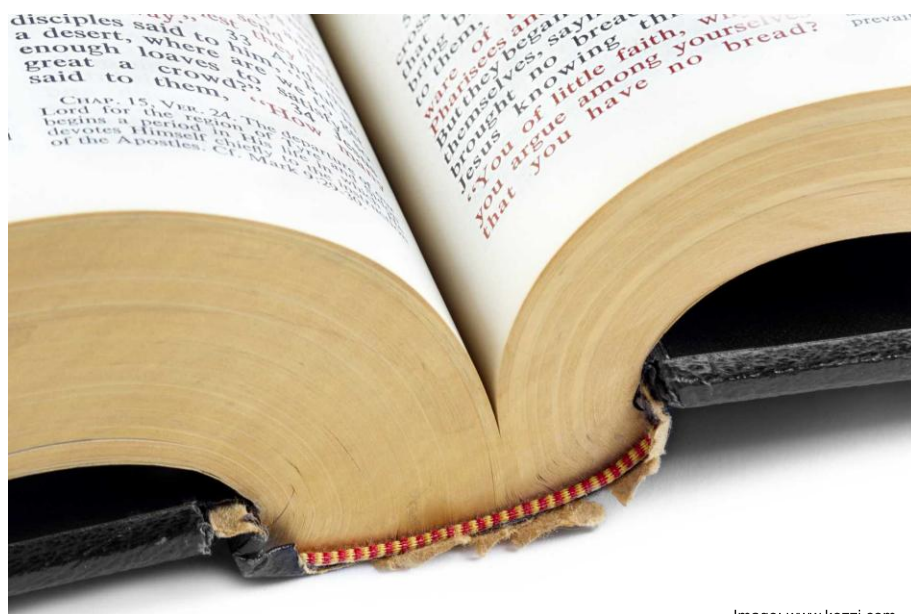


Image: [www.kozzi.com](http://www.kozzi.com)



# CELL PHONE CONTRACT

## between parent and child

1. It is my phone. I bought it. I pay for it. I am loaning it to you. Aren't I the greatest?
2. I will always know the password.
3. If it rings, answer it. It is a phone. Say hello, use your manners. Do not ever ignore a phone call if the screen reads "Mom" or "Dad." Not ever.
4. Hand the phone to one of your parents promptly at 7:30 p.m. every school night and every weekend night at 9:00 p.m. It will be shut off for the night and turned on again at 7:30 a.m. If you would not make a call to someone's land line, wherein their parents may answer first, then do not call or text. Listen to those instincts and respect other families like we would like to be respected.
5. It does not go to school with you. Have a conversation with the people you text in person. It's a life skill. \*Half days, field trips and after school activities will require special consideration.
6. If it falls into the toilet, smashes on the ground, or vanishes into thin air, you are responsible for the replacement costs or repairs. Mow a lawn, babysit, stash some birthday money. It will happen, you should be prepared.
7. Do not use this technology to lie, fool, or deceive another human being. Do not involve yourself in conversations that are hurtful to others. Be a good friend first or stay out of the crossfire.
8. Don't text, email, or say anything through this device you would not say in person.
9. Do not text, email, or say anything to someone that you would not say out loud with their parents in the room. Censor yourself.

*Submitted by Margie Martin who says...*  
*"so glad I didn't have this problem when I had kids growing up"*

10. No porn. Search the web for information you would openly share with me. If you have a question about anything, ask a person — preferably me or your father.

11. Turn it off, silence it, put it away in public. Especially in a restaurant, at the movies, or while speaking with another human being. You are not a rude person; do not allow the iPhone to change that.

12. Do not send or receive pictures of your private parts or anyone else's private parts. Don't laugh. Someday you will be tempted to do this despite your high intelligence. It is risky and could ruin your teenage/college/adult life. It is always a bad idea. Cyberspace is vast and more powerful than you. And it is hard to make anything of this magnitude disappear — including a bad reputation.

13. Don't take a zillion pictures and videos. There is no need to document everything. Live your experiences. They will be stored in your memory for eternity.

14. Leave your phone home sometimes and feel safe and secure in that decision. It is not alive or an extension of you. Learn to live without it. Be bigger and more powerful than FOMO (fear of missing out).

15. Download music that is new or classic or different than the millions of your peers that listen to the same exact stuff. Your generation has access to music like never before in history. Take advantage of that gift. Expand your horizons.

16. Play a game with words or puzzles or brain-teasers every now and then.

17. Keep your eyes up. See the world happening around you. Stare out a window. Listen to the birds. Take a walk. Talk to a stranger. Wonder without Googling.

18. You will mess up. I will take away your phone. We will sit down and talk about it. We will start over again. You and I, we are always learning. I am on your team. We are in this together.



# ***Sunday School Ministry Updates***

by Dawn Robb

You probably know by now that the recruitment for the Baptist Union Scripture Exam participants is now on. Actually by the time the Life@Central church magazine will be printed, the deadline for registering to take part in the annual event will be over and all the challengers will be gearing up to take the exam on the 17th of March 2013. The focus for this year's Bible challenge is the book of Acts.

Central Baptist Sunday school takes part in the Baptist Union Scripture Exam every year. Last year, 32 children and 4 adults wrote the exam. To get the children ready the teachers work hard at preparing and teaching the lessons. The children are always told not to see it as an exam, but as a time to learn Scripture and hide God's word in their hearts. Last year the lessons were out of Nehemiah; Central had very good results.

We praise the Lord for the good team of leaders and teachers we have in the Sunday school, as well as for each child that comes to Sunday school. If there are new people in the church whose children are not attending Sunday school, please feel free to contact Lesley Mills for *Arcadia*, and Brandon Boman for *The Hill*. Their cell numbers are in the Church Directory.

## **NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CENTRAL**

### ***Help Ministry to Get a Worker***

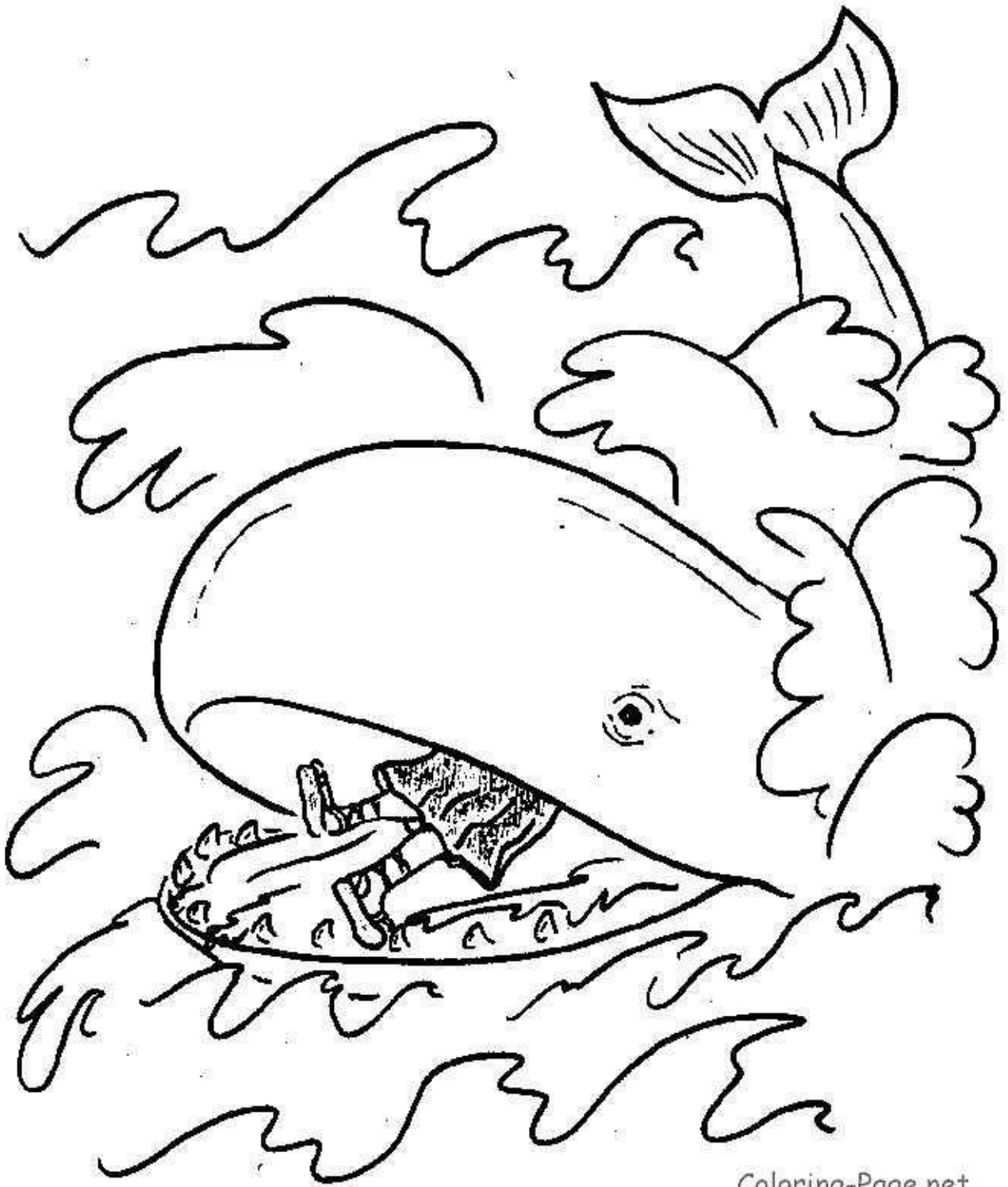
During the business meeting held on 26th February at the Arcadia campus, it was agreed that Central will need someone to assist with the social welfare ministry. There is not a day in the week when the church bell is not rung by vulnerable people looking for assistance. The frequency and increase in number of people coming to central for help has necessitated the need to have someone who will assist the pastoral team and church staff by coordinating Central's benevolent ministry. Once the details about the position are finalised, the church will be informed.

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**012 333 5131  
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