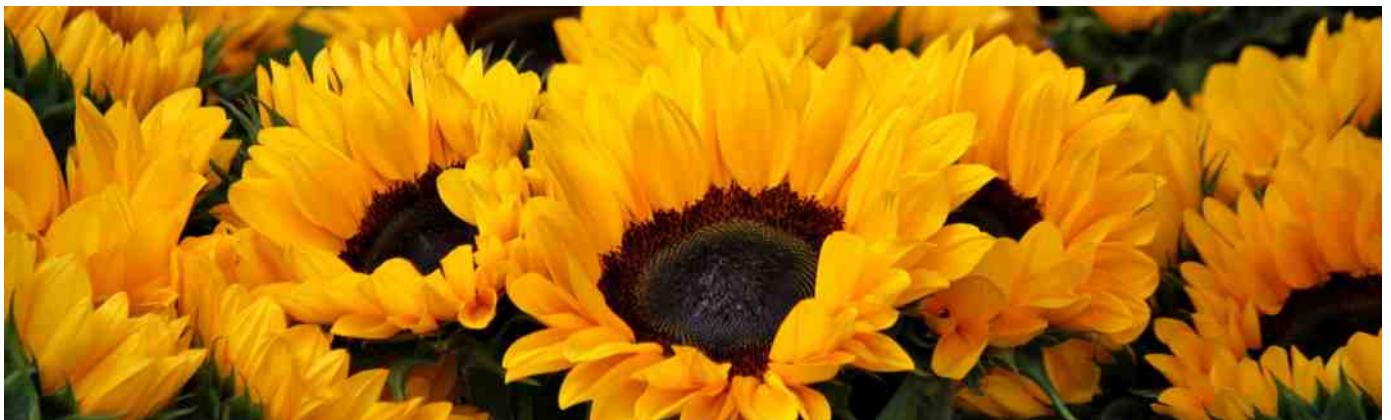


LIFE@central

Central Baptist Church, Pretoria - May 2015





PASTOR'S CORNER

by Charles de Kiewit [Senior Pastor]

Dear Friends

In one of my April messages, I mentioned that we are beginning a new season at Central. This new chapter starts with Lukie Dercksen joining the pastoral team with his focus of ministry at the Arcadia campus. It has been a delight to get to know the whole Dercksen family (Natasha, Xander and Josua) over the months that they have been with us as members at the Hill campus. They have demonstrated their heart for gospel ministry and a love for the people of God. We are looking forward to their continued ministry among us in the days to come.

New seasons mean change. In this new season so much seems to be changing. Eric and Ros are preparing to retire by the end of the year. Koos and Denise Bronkhorst decided to move on from the Caretaking responsibility of the facility at Arcadia.

These come in a context where Central has undergone so many changes in the last few years. A new congregation was planted in the far east of Pretoria; with that we became one church in two places. The constitution has changed, leadership structures have changed; AJ and Aven joined the pastoral team and more recently the leaders Bethesda, John and Lois Mixon, one of our close partners concluded their ministry in SA and returned to the US.

Change can make us feel nervous and even insecure. How then should we be thinking about these changes? I have a few suggestions for you to consider:

- Change brings with it new opportunities. An additional pastor in the church will provide

more capacity on the pastoral team with much more shepherding being done among the members of the church.

- Change forces us to reflect. It is very easy to become used to the same routines and people; easily taking so much for granted. When change occurs we need to evaluate and reflect and adjust if necessary so as to constantly being looking to be more effective in ministry; always seeking to do what is pleasing to God.
- Change should make us more dependent on God. In times of uncertainty and insecurity we are far more conscious of our vulnerabilities and needs. That then leads us to be more ready to look to God who is the all sufficient One.
- Change should be a picture of growth. We ought to be growing and changing as we develop and mature as a church and also as individuals.

Do take courage in the context of many current changes in the life of our church. But do so as we together affirm our trust in our God who does not change and can be trusted in the unfolding of His redemptive purposes. God and His words are reliable.

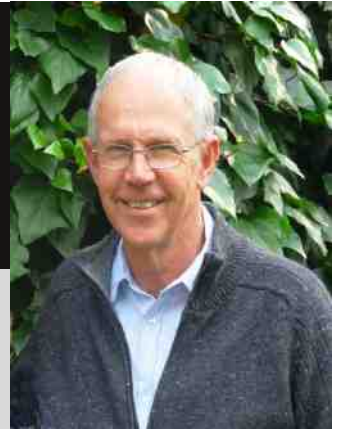
Numbers 23:19 *God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?*

To be like Joshua is better by far ... **Joshua 1:7** *Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.*

Charles

CARING MINISTRY

by Eric Robbins [Assistant Pastor]



The very best way of caring

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you our new pastor of member care and small group ministry at Central. Lukie, welcome to the pastoral team, and may the Lord use you in your more official role, even more than He has done up to now as one of our members. As the Lord enables, I (Eric) will keep serving as one of the member care pastors with perhaps a little more time given to the Hill than previously. But you won't get rid of me that easily at Arcadia, and you will still see Ros and me there most Sundays.

At this time of leadership transition in the church I thought it would be good to ask again the question I have asked before in this column; "what is the very best way to develop caring ministry at Central?" And I think you know the answer! It's is by "one-another" ministry or what others have called "body-life" ministry.

You see the human body knows perfectly well how to care for itself. The hand, mouth and stomach provide nutrition. The gut helps clean up after meals. The legs and feet help run away from danger. The nose, airways and lungs provide oxygen. And so one could go on but it's all aimed at the body looking after itself. And so it is in the church. Each of us have a role to play in member care and have countless opportunities every day to actually do it. Obviously there will be times you will need the help of one of the pastors, but do become part of the ministry to "one-another" too.

Just for fun get hold of a concordance and look up all the "one-another" commands in scripture. You will be amazed! Then of course the next thing to do will be to obey them!

In Jesus' love

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.

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

Previous editions (2006 to 2014) are also available.

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

The story of how God saved me

by Patrick Kennedy

Let me tell you a true story, the story of how God saved me.

Roughly 6000 years ago, God created my original father, called Adam. Adam, while knowing God first hand and intimately, sinned against God. Because Adam is the father of all people to come after him, all the people to come after him would follow in his footsteps, continually and progressively sinning against God. A snowball effect of rebellion and unrighteousness followed until the earth was entirely filled with violence.

This unstoppable sinful deterioration of man could not be without consequence to us. The reason for this is that the sin we committed was committed against God. Now because God is absolute in all of His attributes, some of those attributes require for us to be eternally rejected from the presence of God and receive the due punishment for our sins. The attributes of God that demands this, are His absolute holiness by which He cannot allow any sinful being in His presence, and the other is His absolute righteousness by which no unjust thing can go unpunished. These are things that absolutely have to happen in order for God's character to remain unscathed, one way or another.

And so, about 4400 years ago, God judged and shook the earth and caused a worldwide flood that wiped out all but one man and his family. By doing this, God demonstrated His right to judge us, but also that He will save mankind through one Man, signified in the physical saving of one man called Noah and his family. Anyone with functioning eyes and a brain can see the remnants of this flood when looking at the immensely uniform stratigraphy in the

Karoo and the Grand Canyon, not to mention some 40 metre thick coal seams in some places on earth that are so concentrated with biomass that you have to be willingly ignorant to believe that such a thing could form by normal natural processes. The evidences of this worldwide flood are staggering indeed.

Noah though, even after being witness to what was probably the most terrifying and spectacular judgement of God on earth ever, did not take long to show his Adamite roots. Again the earth filled up with my sinful family. We multiplied and got clever, building high towers in our own honour and in general just thinking much of ourselves, until God dispersed us all over the earth. In order that we might not become ignorant of our rebellion against God or try to justify our current state of sinfulness, God brought about several testimonies that rendered man without excuse. These testimonies include God's creation that undeniably reminds us that He is there, as well as our conscience that undeniably shows us that we are indeed sinning against Him. More than that though, God chose a nation called Israel, through whom He would lay down in extremely clear terms what His opinion of man's sin is. That testimony is commonly called the Law of God.

Before I go on with this story, there is something very important that you should know about God. God is sovereign and not forced by any external factors to do anything in any certain way. That means that in order for His holiness and righteousness to be satisfied in the case of man's rebellion, He has the absolute right to remove man from Him in one instance, condemning us to eternal punishment forever,

and such an action would be completely righteous. The punishment for sinning against that which is Eternal, has to be eternal in order to be just.

So why then, why didn't God simply remove me from His presence and cast me out into eternal darkness at the very moment that I was found guilty? The reason for this is that God does not only have two attributes. He is not merely holy and righteous, but He has many other attributes, of which the chief one is so significant that God says in Scripture that He does not merely possess that attribute, but indeed that He is that very thing. Scripture teaches that God is love.

From the love of God then, the demands of His holiness and righteousness is not exercised immediately. God indeed is good, merciful, slow to anger, patient, kind and full of grace. It is from God's love then that He authored my salvation. It is from God's love that He provided a substitute for me by pouring out His judgement and wrath on His only begotten Son, Jesus the Christ. Jesus was given as ransom to purchase my freedom in the final coming judgement of God. The very name Jesus, comes from the Hebrew name for Joshua, meaning "the Lord saved". He is the propitiation for my sins.

God then having done everything necessary to save the entire world, now commands all people everywhere to repent from their sin and believe in the name of Jesus in order for them to receive the salvation accomplished in Christ. He has given us His Son in order that we may become God's sons through faith in Him. By extension of being sons of God in Christ, God has now also become Father to us, prompting us to leave behind our Adams family roots. Not only that, but because of the eternal nature of our transgression, God has also given us the perfect Man to stand as high priest between man and God; and this not merely until time ends, but for eternity. This then makes it possible for us to be perfected in the sight of God forever. We have received eternal life in Christ Jesus. He is the only way and truth and

life for man.

That then is the short version of how God saved me. It is also the story of how God saved you, and not only us, but the whole world.

One warning though before I end this story. The gospel of God's grace is indeed very good news for humankind; the fact that God's love made a way for us to be saved. But personal rejection of this good news will render it completely ineffective for you personally. Probably the most well-known verse in the Bible is John 3:16, which speaks of God's love displayed in the giving of His son, but there are two clear warnings in that very same chapter:

John 3:18 - *Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.*

John 3:36 - *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

As Christians, we are faced at times with difficult questions from the non-believing world, like: "How can a loving God condemn people to hell?" It is necessary for us to have a version of the gospel that does not shy away from any revealed truth in Scripture. God's law and the Old Testament is not the enemy of God's grace and the New Testament. God's love does not oppose God's wrath, but satisfies it in Christ. Also, there are good reasons why the gospel is conveyed as a command from God as we see it preached in the book of Acts, rather than an invitation as most of us would like to present it. Difficult truths should not tempt us to create our own, but should spur us on to keep searching the Scripture and trusting God to help us understand. We are saved sinners with a message that we did not author, and which we certainly do not have the right to adapt to something that we would consider to be better good news. God is love, but He is not loving only, and the justice demanded by His righteous character will surely be met, whether by His Way or by our own.



WOMEN'S VALUE

Compiled by Natasha Dercksen

A letter from Carol



Hello to all my fellow "boot-campers"

The ladies of Central Baptist have been doing well with their "work outs" so far this year.

We decided to take "Spiritual Boot Camp" as our 2015 theme. Becoming fitter and stronger Christians should be an on-going goal for all of us. When we



reach a point where we think we've made it and are as fit and strong as we will ever be, then we need to watch out and work even harder because that attitude places us in a very vulnerable place.

Before we reach heaven, we need to train daily to become more like our Master Instructor. Obeying Him, consistently doing our stretching and work-out exercises, and following His example.

We should be working out with joy, loving the people around us, helping those who are struggling while all the time keeping our eyes fixed on Christ our

Instructor, waiting for His next instruction.

Christ will never ever give us exercises which will break and destroy us. Instead the exercises He gives will only strengthen us and make us ready for the next routine He has in store for us.

Some of the work-outs will be painful, they will hurt, but our 24 hour Instructor is with us all the way, encouraging us to depend on Him. He helps us through the pain and offers to help carry the weights which pull us down and hold us back.



What I am trying to say to you is, there are certain spiritual disciplines which need to take place if we want to grow in our spiritual life. Although, we know that we are saved by grace and grace alone and not by works, we also know that we are running a race, the race of life. If we are to run the race well, we need to train.



The training for the race of life requires disciplines of

- reading the instruction manual – the Word of God,
- having regular “interviews” with our Instructor – prayer with our Father God,
- attending training sessions with the rest of the team – church and Bible study attendance,
- telling others about our training ‘programme’ and our Instructor – evangelism,
- looking out for team mates who need a helping hand – encouraging our fellow Christians,
- persevering through the pain – not throwing in the towel when we get tired,
- showing off our toned bodies in such a way that will bring glory to God and make others want to join the team – being trophies of grace

These are just some of the disciplines.

King’s Rubies Boot Camp is looking at some of the disciplines for a successful race. We are taking these from the book of James.



Our first training session involved us **EXAMINING OUR HEARTS**. Our hearts have to be healthy enough to follow through on the training programme. We did a heart test and raised the pulse a little by asking some difficult questions.

In our second session we looked at the benefits of **RESISTANCE TRAINING**. We can “resist the devil and he will flee from us”.

In May, **our third session** will involve looking at the **TRAINING THAT HAPPENS BETWEEN SUNDAY AND SUNDAY**. We cannot expect to develop spiritual muscles if we only train once on a Sunday. So we will examine our weekly training and how we can improve.

That leaves 3 more sessions: **July** looking at training the strongest muscle in the body – **THE TONGUE**, **September** – **TAKING THE KNOCK** – how to get up again when we feel we’ve been knocked out cold and the count-down has begun. We’ve given you one extra meeting this year **October** – the importance of **KNEE LUNGING** – prayer is possibly one of the most neglected exercises, yet it is also one of the most important ones. If we can get this one right we should be able to better manage all that gets thrown at us during our race.



Come on ladies, I invite you to join our boot camp. You do not need special training gear to attend, the entrance fee is reasonable, which will include something nice to eat, beautiful surroundings, plus a very friendly team. You might also pick up some new ideas on healthy living as well.

Looking forward to seeing you at Boot Camp – You cannot be too old, too young, too big or too small.

Please join us

- 16 May @ The Hill @ 15h00 (afternoon tea)
- 25 July @ Arcadia @ 12h30 (lunch)
- 19 September @ Arcadia @ 10h30 (morning tea)
- 17 October @ Arcadia @ 08h30 (breakfast)

Much luv from another "boot-camper"

Carol



WOMEN'S VALUE

Central's 30th Birthday Celebration

The ladies of Central participated in the food stalls by preparing and serving various types of food to celebrate Central's 30th birthday celebration. After the juicy and appetizing supper everybody enjoyed cake and tea in the hall.



Leandra and Charlene



Dorothy and Carol



Left: Judit and Caroline

Center: Lientjie, Colleen and Michaela

Right: Nienke, Inutu and Likando



Paige, Jess, Taz and Anne



Randu



Elizabeth Scott and Clarry Brews

Ladies in action on the Family Getaway

Central's ladies enjoyed the church family getaway that took place on the weekend of 27 February 2015. From young to old couldn't stop chatting as ladies do when they are all together. Herewith a few photos of ladies in action on the church family getaway.



Eileen Meyer



Jinsun



Sheri



Elaine and Andrea



Michelle and Brenda



Sheri, Rader and Lize



Randu and Lize



Michelle, Lize and Dawn



Ros, Dawn and Caryn

Poor Caroline Gibbs broke her toe on the first night they arrived at the camp, but not once during the whole camp was she sad. She smiled the whole time, even though in pain. What a great example and encouragement for the rest of our ladies.





WOMEN'S VALUE

Our first Kings Rubies meetings for 2015

How blessed we are to have a church where the ladies can meet from time to time and have fellowship together. On 17 January 2015 at our first Kings Rubies meeting we enjoyed a healthy breakfast over a steaming cup of coffee or tea served in a cup and saucer with a delicate biscuit on the side. We were truly spoilt.

17 January 2015 was also Margie's birthday and she joined us for the meeting. We were blessed to share her birthday with her that day.



Ladies at our 17 January meeting



Delene, Dawn, Brenda and Thelma



Margie Martin

On 21 March 2015 the ladies of Central gathered again over a healthy plate of nutritious food and learned about how resistance training is essential for all ladies. We were also reminded of what the Bible teaches about temptation. Fellowship between the ladies were also a big hit as everyone gathered together afterwards and couldn't get enough of each other's conversations. From the young teenagers to the elderly, all enjoyed the day.

Blessings in a Bottle

Ladies, remember to fill up your bottles of blessings. We fill the bottles with money every time we feel blessed. The money goes to the Baptist Union who helps with the education of qualified nurses.



Kingdom Kids at The Hill

If you attend the Hill Campus and have children, *Kingdom Kids* ministry is just the place for your children. We meet at 10am and during that time children have fun learning God's word. If you are interested in being a *Kingdom Kids* teacher, then please contact Brent George. We are looking for someone to assist with the 2-4 year old class.

Sunday School News

by Gaby Pretorius

Come join us at Kingdom Kids on a Sunday morning at 10am to learn God's Word. We have had a wonderful first term. The children have settled in their new classes for the year and are memorizing a scripture verse every week, while having lots of fun.

We want to say a very big thank you to Natasha Dercksen for her invaluable role at Kingdom Kids and with the 2-4 year old class which she and Gaby taught at. Natasha will be moving to the Arcadia branch with Lukie from April to begin his ministry as care pastor.

Natasha will be joining the Kingdom Kids team at Arcadia! We pray the Lord's richest blessings for the Dercksen family as they begin this exciting new season of ministry.



We are always looking for teachers to assist. If you are interested in being a Kingdom Kids teacher, please contact Brent George. We are needing someone to assist with the 2-4 year old class.



Our children just love Friday night youth at the Hill Campus that started up this year. Special thanks to Sarah and Bradley Salzwedel and Natasha Dercksen, for heading up this very exciting ministry. The kids have great fun while learning the Gospel and forming friendships. The parents love it too and can't wait for Friday nights to braai and chat with special friends. Do come join us next term!



*Friday
Night
Youth
at
The Hill*



welcomes a new pastor

Central has a new pastor on board, if you have been coming to Central you already know this, in fact you may have been present in April when Pastor Lukie Dercksen was commissioned during the morning service at the Arcadia campus. Before joining Central, Pastor Lukie had a counselling practice in Pretoria.

Born and raised in Evander, Mpumalanga, Pastor Lukie studied at the Theological Seminary in Kempton Park. Like most boys, he first wanted to become a fireman, then a fighter pilot, and even a pharmacist. This all changed when in grade 12 he asked God for direction, "I prayed a lot about my future and God made it clear that He wanted me to go study theology. So I did" said Lukie. His faith journey started at a youth camp, "during one of the sermons I realised that I was a sinner without Christ and that if I died that day I would go to hell. I went to my room, confessed my sin and put my trust in the saving grace of Jesus. I committed my life to Him. Today I'm still grateful and amazed that God saved me".

Lukie and his family joined the Hill Campus in 2013 after being invited by a friend. As Pastor, his vision for the church is to encourage and guide Centralites to love God, care for one another and impact the world. This is in line with what inspires him, the Bible, reading and meditating on the Bible and encouraging Christians to fight the good fight.

Apart from the blessing of eternal life, Lukie says he is truly blessed to be married to Natasha whom he describes as "a beautiful godly wife, Natasha is genuinely my better half". Lukie and Natasha have two boys, 10 year old Xander and four year old Josua. When asked about hobbies, he says that most of his free time is taken up by family, "playing cricket in the garden is one of my favourite things to do".



Lukie, Xander, Natasha and Josua

Zonderwater inmates say, *thank you!*

by Deon Haasbroek

Zonderwater is a prison located in Cullinan, and it is in this prison that Deon Haasbroek and his wife Elimen have been involved in reaching out to the inmates for the last six years. Using the Bible Way course developed by the Baptist Union, Deon conducts Bible studies with some of the students every Thursday. He also delivers Bible study material which comes in two parts, basic and advanced. Students who complete the study are issued with a certificate. Central supports this prison's ministry by buying the material which is freely distributed to the inmates.

In appreciation, here is what some of the inmates had to say, their names have been withheld for confidentiality:

"I have learnt about the love of Christ for the world. Jesus was humbled and treated as a criminal, taken to court and judged unfairly. The Son of God was without sin but carried our sins and was crucified for our sins. It would have been difficult and hard for Him to be betrayed and persecuted by man. Jesus died a horrific death to save us from hell. God bless."

"In Christian life we should not only expect good things but also affliction. We must ask God to help us and never give up. God will never leave us or forsake us. He is the author and the finisher of our lives because nothing is difficult for God. Even in prison we must fight the good fight and not be ashamed of God because He is not ashamed of us. We must be good soldiers of Jesus Christ even when the way is hard."

"Thanks for giving me the course. It meant a lot to me. I have learnt about Jesus, God and the Bible. It helps me through my sentence in jail and keeps me out of trouble."

"I now know how much God loves me and has been very merciful even though I don't deserve it and that He created me for His pleasure. I now choose to follow Jesus as a new creature. Amen."

"I am a sinner and I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for my sins on the cross and He was raised for my justification and I do now receive and confess Him as my personal Saviour. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:15. God bless!"

"When I read the Word it says 'when we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.' I accept Jesus in my life. I confessed my sins. I trust him that He has forgiven me. But there are sins that I think I do not deserve forgiveness for. I want those sins away. Forgotten and done away with in my life. What must I do in order to find deliverance, freedom and peace for bad sins of the past? Please help. God bless!"

Deon and Elimen are not the only ones involved in this prison's ministry. Les Bray, Les Roos and Margie Martin are some Centralites also serving in this ministry. For those interested in getting involved, you can do so by praying, donating Bibles in excellent condition, Christian literature that is of sound doctrine as well as stationery. Material can be delivered to the Resource Centre at the Arcadia campus.

ALZHEIMER'S

by Miriam Cain,
registered nurse

Sugar is NOT Good Brain Food!

Did you know that having diabetes can double or triple your risk of Alzheimer's? Author Jean Carper reports that some experts call Alzheimer's "diabetes of the brain" or "type 3 diabetes". In her book, *100 Simple Things You Can Do To Prevent Alzheimer's*, she says "The sobering fact is that ordinary sugar spurs production of the toxic stuff that leads to Alzheimer's in susceptible brains... and if the direct brain damage from sugar hits is not scary enough, our long-time love affair with sugar also sparks our epidemic of obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, high triglycerides, low HDL good cholesterol and so-called metabolic syndrome, a combination of several risk factors. All of these are indirect highways to age-related memory impairment and Alzheimer's."

There is more, in his book, *The Alzheimer's Prevention Plan*, Patrick Holford says that "a six-year Swedish study of 1,301 people aged 75 and over showed that those with diabetes were one and a half times more likely to develop dementia. The risk was even greater in diabetics who also had high blood pressure or heart disease."

Don't know about you, but this sounds to me like a great reason to break our sugar addiction! If you are wondering how, here are a few ideas to help you control your blood sugar:

- **Have a fasting blood glucose test periodically.** The recommended frequency of this test depends on your age and weight. Your doctor can advise you.
- **Eat a low-glycaemic load (GL) diet.** A food's GL doesn't only count the type of carbohydrate in it (slow or fast releasing leading to a low or high Glycaemic Index (GI) rate); but also measures how much carbohydrate there is in that food. Eat whole foods eg: whole grains, lentils, beans, nuts, seeds, fresh fruit and vegetables. Avoid refined, white and overcooked foods.
- **Stay away from sugar.** Use xylitol to sweeten cereals and desserts.
- **Good anti-diabetic foods include:** Apples, berries, buckwheat, cherries, chickpeas, cinnamon, green tea, lentils, oats, pears and plums.
- **Take ½ teaspoon of cinnamon daily.** Cinnamon helps to get sugar out of the blood stream and into the cells. Add cinnamon to your cereal, oatmeal, fruit salad, marinades or curry.
- **Oats or specifically Oat-Bran,** contain a powerful anti-diabetes nutrient called beta-glucan. So oats porridge with cinnamon makes a great breakfast to control your blood sugar!
- **Take Chromium Picolinate** 400-600 mcg daily. Chromium works in two ways to increase the body's sensitivity to insulin. Also take a high strength multi-vitamin and mineral supplement.
- **Be diligent about taking your medication** if you have been diagnosed as diabetic.
- **Read more:** Along with the two books mentioned above, Patrick Holford and Jerome Burne's book, *Drugs vs Food as Medicine* is also interesting.

ALL PEOPLE THAT ON EARTH DO DWELL

Words by William Kethe

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise;
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good;
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

Well done Gerrie!

Gerrie Knoesen took part in the Tour De Boland from 2 – 6 March 2015. The tour consisted of 5 stages, 464km's, and 4428m ascent.

Gerrie came 49th out of a group of 207 "A" bunch riders. In the time trial, Gerrie took 14th place.

Well done!



Raised to Praise

Bethesda Outreach

*This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father,
to visit orphans and widows in their distress..." James 1:27*

- Mike's birthday 6 March
- Peter's birthday 12 March
- Thabiso Malete's birthday 25 March
- Buyi's birthday 25 March

- Rose's birthday 26 March
- Pray for Buyi—March Child of the Month
- Pray for our weekly Bible studies



Poems, Skits, Singing, Danc-
ing...God has blessed our families
and children with a lot of talent!
For the past several years, Don
and Fran Stoffel, friends of Be-
thesda from NY, have organised a
"Bethesda's Got Talent" evening in
which the children

and parents have an opportunity to practice
and perform an item—using a talent or ability
that God has given to them. This year, we
heard poems that had been written by two of
our children, we watched a modern day ver-
sion of the story of the Prodigal Son, we heard
many songs, watched a traditional dance and
enjoyed hearing our house moms sing a Zulu song. Luke, from Word
of Life gave a short devotional highlighting what true, biblical love
looks like from 1 Corinthians 13. To end off the day, all the families
and staff were able to enjoy a braai and an informal time of fun and



fellowship. Don and Fran
Stoffel and friend, Dar-
cie, did much of the
planning and preparing
for this and baked
LOADS and LOADS of
cupcakes for everyone
for dessert!



Do you not know? Have
you not heard? The
Everlasting God, the
LORD, the Creator of the
ends of the earth does
not become weary or
tired. His understanding
is inscrutable.

He gives strength to the
weary, and to him who
lacks might He increases
power.

-Isaiah 40:28-29



Change often brings feelings of uncertainty or excitement or a certain amount of general nervousness. Overall, most of us enjoy a certain amount of stability but often God has other plans. When we look at the children that God has brought to Bethesda, we often marvel at the changes that they have already endured. Most of the children have come from terrible situations that we can hardly imagine and looking at their situation now—the change that they experience in coming to Bethesda is a good one. Those of us observing this understand this because have a certain amount of understanding of who and what they are coming to; however, the change of family, home, and living situation in their minds is often confusing and very scary as they don't necessarily understand the size and scope of living at Bethesda.

*Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD
and whose trust is in the LORD*

We can be thankful that any changes that Bethesda will go through are being guided by a gracious, loving, all-knowing God who has our best interest in mind and who will do all things to bring Himself glory and honour. That is also our desire as we go through the process of looking for the right person to take the

position of Executive Director*. To us, at times, these changes may bring about uncertainty, but we can trust completely in a holy God who will only do what is good.

This is God's ministry to effect a positive change in the lives of children who have been orphaned. We want to continue to rescue and raise children who will learn to know and love God and to become His followers. You are a vital part of this process and we rely on your prayers, interest and your faithful donations to help us be your hands and feet here in Hammanskraal. The lives of these children have been and will continue to be changed due to your continued faithfulness. We are so grateful!

*If you did not see the transition letter from the Board, please contact us at bethesda-temba@boi.org. If you have contacts or wish to submit a CV/Resume, please send all information to edapps@boi.org.



BETHESDA FUN RUN

Celebrating 15 Years!

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday May 16th, 2015

In the event that you can't make it to Hammanskraal for the Fun Run, consider doing your own race on May 16th to celebrate with us.

If you want to make it bigger and make it a project to raise some funds for Bethesda, then invite your friends, school or church to participate and we will be happy to give you the logo or other materials so you can promote it better.

We would LOVE to see as many people as possible participating!

How can we help YOU?

Contact Ruth at Bethesda-temba@boi.org

THE DREAM

by Bev van Rensburg

Pablo and Rosa Maria were walking briskly up the hill in Saraguro, a small Andean town in Ecuador.

They were still rejoicing over the wonderful glasses they had both received from the 'God's Eyes' team at the April 2014 medical outreach. At that stage they had ceased to read altogether because their eyesight was so bad.

Can you even begin to imagine their joy at reading again when their very first book, after receiving the prescription glasses, which Carol and Ryan constructed on sight, was a Bible!

They had heard the Gospel message for the first time at that medical outreach. Darren and Charles shared while they were standing in the long queue to gain access to the building. They had realised that God loved them so much that He sent Jesus to be Saviour and Lord and to die in their stead for their sins. They realised for the first time that God, even though a God of justice, was also a God of grace and love. They had repented of their sin and went home that day with a Gospel bracelet reminding them of the Gospel story, each with a beautiful new Bible and also the glasses which were 'new eyes' to them... "I once was blind, but now I see!"

How does the dream continue? (Bev shares):

Darren and Andrea greeted Pablo and Rosa Maria as they caught their breath walking up the steep hill, and who had recognised Darren from the medical outreach.

He greeted them and asked how their eyes were doing. Both beamed with joy and said that seeing again had made all the difference... "And reading?" asked Darren.

"Oh, yes", Said Pablo, "We read the Bible and appreciate it so much!"

"How would you like to receive a Bible Study to help you in your Bible reading?", asked Darren.

"Oh, yes, that would be wonderful", said Pablo. "Would you like to come to our home for tea?"

"Rosa Maria, smiled at Andrea, and both couples extended their hands for friendly handshakes to indicate their pleasure at this meeting. Darren and Andrea were coming up for their first wedding anniversary - Andrea was in Quito at the time of the medical outreach preparing for the wedding.

Well how does the dream continue?

Pablo and Rosa Maria, receive the first 'New Life in Christ' Bible Study material, and invite two couples to go through the material with them. Darren phones Pablo and asks how the Study is going and hears of the multiplication of another four people.... this heralds an exciting beginning of their discipleship and mentorship. Please, Lord, may this dream come true!



All smiles, Andrea and Darren van Rensburg

Psalm 1

The Righteous and the Wicked

Blissful, he who walks not where the wicked would advise him,
Nor occupies the places where the sinners choose to stand;
And neither does he take his seat where mockers recognise him,
But gladdens when the law of God is constant to his hand.

Then, like a tree that's planted at the river's verdant border,
That bears its fruit in season, so will this man also grow.
Its leaf will never wither, and the man in this same order
Will thrive in all his ventures, wheresoever he will go.

The wicked will not prosper, though, for like the chaff they are,
That winnows in the wind away, and leaves the grain to stay.
They will not stand when judgement comes – unworthy they by far,
To stand among the righteous who assemble on that day.

For the manner of the Godly man is known to the Lord
His circumstance of righteousness divinely overseen
But the wicked man's condition, He, no mercy will afford;
In judgement they will perish, just as if they'd never been.

Taken from the poetry collection *"In David's Line"*
by Alan S. Campbell

Thoughts while in Japan

by Pastor AJ

Aven and I were privileged to go to Japan for 11 days over the Easter holiday. We enjoyed delicious food like ramen, sushi, squid and rice dishes to name a few. We experienced a culture so very different to our own, and got to see and participate in many unique activities, and we thank God for all of this. We started our trip in Tokyo which is just a gigantic metropolis with millions of people wearing business suits and face masks, hurrying along with their daily routine. To give you an idea of the sheer size of this city; 36 million residents! That's 50% bigger than the world's second biggest metropolis. The population size is not the only impressive thing. There is an energy and buzz around this place. From the massive glowing billboards in Shibuya, to the seven storey arcades and electronic stores in Akihabara. Tokyo also hosts the world's busiest pedestrian intersection, imagine THOUSANDS of people crossing the street from all directions at the same time, well we saw it with our own eyes, crazy!



Shibuya Crossing

Tokyo is also home to the world's busiest train station, Shinjuku station has a whopping 35 platforms, 200 exits and transports around 3 million people A DAY! And it doesn't end there. On the corner of every pavement is a set of stairs going down to a train station. Go down

these stairs and you walk into massive underground malls with restaurants, department stores and underground streets. There is literally a city under the city. This friends is a big place. Yet surprisingly everything is super efficient, incredibly clean and extremely safe. People park on the side of the road and leave their cars idling while they go do their shopping. On top of that people are courteous, polite and always end off their conversations with a smile and a bow.



The Imperial Palace in Tokyo

Even though I have said so much about Tokyo we did see other parts of Japan too. Hiroshima as we know is where the Nuclear bomb fell, ending World War 2. We got to go to the memorial park and the atomic bomb museum. It was a deeply emotional experience and we learnt so much about the cost of war. There is a story of one girl who suffered from radiation poisoning and died 10 years after the bomb. She believed that if she made 1000 paper cranes she would have a wish granted. She made the cranes, wished for health, but died shortly after that. Oh how all creation groans under the weight of sin! If only those 1000 cranes were exchanged for the ONE Saviour!

After Hiroshima we went to Kyoto, the previous capital and centre for traditional Japanese culture. It is a beautiful city, especially during

cherry blossom season. The city is also full of Buddhist and Shinto shrines. You cannot walk 100 meters without seeing a temple or shrine of some sort, they are literally everywhere. Shinto worships the forces of nature, polytheism and animism, whereas Buddhism is all about following an ethical code of conduct in one's life, practicing meditation and renunciation. For Japanese people, it's more than a religion, it is a way of life. It is a complete worldview, intertwined with their arts, culture, literature, lifestyle, history and heritage.

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? Romans 10:14.



Buddhist temple in Kyoto

After Kyoto we hiked the Nakasendo trail giving us a little taste of Japan's natural beauty. On our way we saw multiple signs warning hikers against bears... yikes! We stayed in an old postal town called Magome, very pretty and so far removed from the jolly madness of Tokyo. Our last 2 days was in a town called Nikko, another fascinating place filled with shrines and temples. It is here that I looked like a complete idiot attempting ninja training and Japanese sword fighting. It's a lot more difficult than in the Kung Fu movies :)

All in all we had a great experience but this article is not simply meant to be a travel guide. Looking at a country like Japan where Christianity is less than 1%, I cannot help feel an overwhelming sense of sorrow. The thousands of people we passed by... where will they spend

eternity? Those 36 million residents in Tokyo? Those 127 million citizens across the country? After thinking about it for some time there are three ways in which people can respond:

1. God must not be good... yes you heard correctly! Some would argue: How could a loving God send so many millions of people to hell? They don't know any better! God must either not be real or the Bible must be wrong.
2. All religions lead to salvation. Just look at the devotion, discipline and morality of the Japanese people. How can you say this is wrong? Christians are nothing more than bigots, claiming they have the only truth.
3. In the words of Isaiah the prophet: "Here I am, send me". I am aware that not everyone is called to be a missionary in Japan, yet I trust that along with me you believe that Jesus is The Way, The Truth, and The Life, and that no-one comes to the Father but through Him. There is no other name by which men, women and children can be saved but the name of Jesus. So many are trapped by deceptive lies and us Christians have the truth that can set them free.

Could I ask that you pray for the country of Japan? Maybe even try to connect with a missionary who is serving there. Maybe even go there yourself! The Buddhist and Shinto people need to hear the good news we have. They will not believe, unless they hear, and they will not hear unless someone goes. Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send labourers to Japan.

In Christ, AJ & Aven



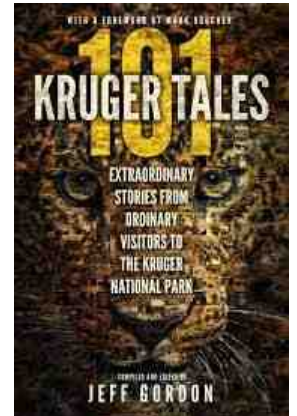
The postal town, Magome

BOOK *reviews*

by Val Nowlan

101 Kruger Tales: Extraordinary Stories from Ordinary Visitors to the Kruger National Park

by Jeff Gordon & Mark Boucher



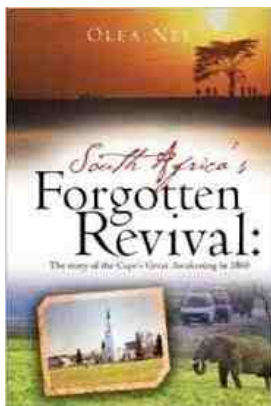
Scrapes and encounters in one of Africa's greatest national parks

"An enraged elephant tips a car onto its roof. A lioness prises open the door of a terrified couple. A leopard helps itself to a family's picnic basket. A fleeing impala leaps through an open car window. A lion charges around inside a busy rest camp. A tourist takes a bath in a croc-infested dam..."

These are just a few of the 101 jaw-dropping sightings, scrapes and encounters in this collection of extraordinary true stories from the roads, camps, picnic sites and walking

trails of South Africa's Kruger National Park, as told by the very people who experienced them...."

I was particularly impressed with the excellent, though small, photographs that accompany many of the stories. As a rule one has to be very quick with your camera to be able to catch happenings in the Park. The picture that makes me shudder is of a forlorn couple leaning against their car lying on its roof alongside the road. That picture would sell the book for me!



South Africa's Forgotten Revival: The Story of the Cape's Great Awakening in 1860

by Olea Nel

This too is a very South African story. It tells of the frigid church conditions prior to revival when there was a dire shortage of pastors and teachers especially in the Cape. It describes how God prepared the ground by setting precursors in place and raising up key leaders to help promote and direct the revival. While the tide of the Holy Spirit swelled gently in some towns, in others it broke without warning. It swept through vast areas of farmland throughout the Cape

and beyond. The story concludes in 1875 with the victory of the church over liberal influences, establishment of educational centres in Stellenbosch and Wellington and the vision to translate the Bible into Afrikaans emanating from Paarl.

This book contains never before told detail of a spiritual awakening in South Africa. It is fascinating reading and well researched so that the reader may never need to query the facts.



Listen for the Donkey Bells

by Barbara Hulse

This book is a personal memoir by Mabel Sheldon recorded and transcribed by Barbara Hulse. I confess just looking at the picture of the donkey on the cover of the book aroused my interest and curiosity!

The name might seem strange, but stop and think. I quote: 'Go to a remote, backward area of the world where the gospel has not been preached. Work hard among the poor and often illiterate people, some of whom do not want you there. Watch while some people do come to Christ and start growing in their

understanding of God's Word, and in their desire to serve the Lord. What a thrill when this desire is translated into action. A part of this action was collecting food and bringing it to the Bible Institute on donkeys so that students could be fed. Listening to the donkey bells was evidence that God was building His Church in north-eastern Brazil. It brought much joy and a thankful heart to Mabel.'

The simplicity, sincerity and downright hard work based firmly on an immovable and unshakable faith in God's Word and the desire to share the Good News makes this compelling reading.

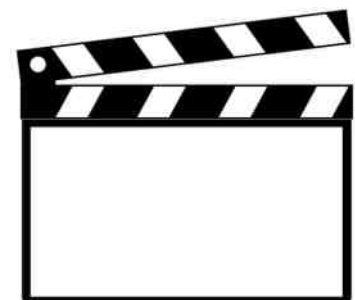
Saturday Night **Movies**

If you are unsure of what to do on a Saturday night and have access to DSTV, consider watching a movie on the Faith channel - channel 341 on your decoder. The 8pm movies on this channel are Christian-based, and presents a good and safer alternative to many other movies on offer.

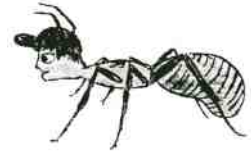
It is also worth to take note of certain websites providing movie reviews, either from a Christian perspective, or from the perspective of parents with children. These reviews often provide specific information on a film's content according to the occurrence of sexual content, nudity, violence, drugs or alcohol and profanity. From these reviews a more informed decision can be made on whether the movie is worth a watch.

The following websites can provide valuable information on movies:

<http://www.pluggedin.com/>
<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>
<http://www.kids-in-mind.com/>
<https://www.movieguide.org/>
<http://www.crosswalk.com/culture/movies/>



Andy the Ant



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

Charlie Chameleon

("No one can serve two masters" - Matthew 6:24)

Soccer season starts in Swaziland on the 1st January and ends on the 31st December!

So, it was not surprising that the insects and other things on the Mission Station decided to organise a football match for themselves one day.

"The brown insects can play against the green ones." said Andy when they had gathered to discuss the match. "Then we won't have to worry about jerseys to show which side we are on!"

Everybody agreed that that was a good idea. So all the brown insects and little things joined Andy's team and the green ones Percy the Praying Mantis' team.

"Charlie," said Andy to the brown chameleon, "you play on the right wing for us."

"Righto, Andy." said Charlie happily, moving to the wing.

The game started when the whistle blew and everybody began playing their

best for the team. It wasn't very long before Andy's team, the Browns, had scored the first goal. Charlie was playing very well and they often passed the ball to him.

But Percy's team of Greens fought back and soon they made the score one goal each.

Then Percy's team began to play even better and to press even harder and they made several attacks on the Brown team's goals.

It became very hard going for Andy's Browns and only a desperate punch-out by the goal-keeper managed to save what looked like a certain goal.

The ball rolled away from the Brown team's goal towards the right-wing. Now Charlie would be able to take the ball further away from the Brown's goal towards the goal of Percy's Green team.

The ball reached Charlie's feet, and Andy got the surprise of his life.

Charlie had changed colour. He was now Green instead of Brown and instead of kicking the ball away from Andy's goal, he kicked it right back, and nearly scored a goal for the Greens.

"Hey! You're kicking the wrong way, Charlie!" puffed Andy, "You're supposed to be on our side!" But Charlie just laughed.

Slowly Andy's side regained the upper hand and made the score 2 – 1 in the Brown's favour.

"Pass the ball to me Andy," shouted Charlie from the right-wing, "I'm on your side." Andy looked at Charlie, and sure enough, he had changed back from Green to Brown.

"Whose side are you actually on?" yelled Percy a little later when he noticed that Charlie had changed to Green again.

"Well, actually I'm on the side that looks like winning." Charlie admitted. "If the Browns seem to be winning then I am Brown and if the Greens seem to be winning, then I'm on the Green side."

"But you can't do that. You can't play for both sides." argued Percy. "Nobody

can serve two sides for sooner or later he must double-cross and fail the one side. You must make up your mind Charlie. Either the Greens or the Browns but not both."

"Alright" said Charlie. "I'm Brown, they're winning. I'm on your side Andy. Pass the ball to me."

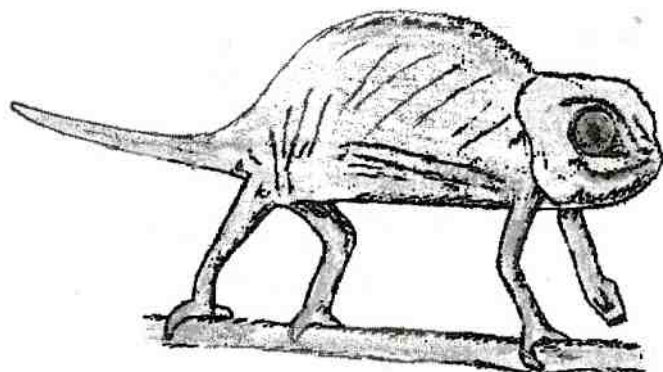
At half time Andy called his team together, without Charlie. "I'm afraid we can't trust Charlie," he explained, "He still keeps changing sides, so don't pass the ball to him."

"... and don't pass the ball to Charlie," Percy was saying to his Green team, "because you don't know where you are with him. He is as likely to play against us as for us!"

You see, you must be loyal to your team, win or lose. And you must be loyal to your captain.

As the missionary said to the scholars at Chapel soon after that: "You can't serve God one day and the devil the next. If you belong to Jesus, you must be proud of your 'team colours' and you must stick by Him even and when it seems very hard and wickedness seems to be winning. He will win in the end. He is actually winning now although it may not always seem so. So stick by Him through thick and thin and don't let Him or your fellow Christians down."

THE WINNING TEAM! (Are YOU in it?)



THE CORTINA

AND THE MERCEDES

When our kids were young, the family car was an old, blue Ford Cortina, well past its 'best before' date. Every member of the family hated this car for a specific reason: the faded and somewhat rusty paintwork, the threadbare upholstery, its tendency to break down in the most inconvenient spot at the most inconvenient time..... the list was long.

However, Old Blue did take us on some memorable holidays. It was on one of these holidays that we were driving through the Free State, very early one morning. The sun had just risen, and every object was casting a long shadow. Suddenly our son called out, "Look! The car's shadow looks like a Mercedes!" Indeed, it did! Keeping pace with the battered old Cortina, was a Mercedes shadow flowing over the maize fields.

The thought immediately entered my heart, this is what walking in the Light of God does for a person! Your 'paintwork' may be faded, your performance dubious, but when you walk in His light, you will cast the perfect shadow!

by Ann Onymous

Perks of the mature years (70 plus)

*Submitted by
Lammie Fourie*

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2. In a hostage situation, you are likely to be released first.
3. No one expects you to run - anywhere.
4. People call at 9 pm (or 9 am) and ask, 'Did I wake you?'
5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Things you buy now will never wear out.
8. You can eat supper at 4 pm.
9. You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
10. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
11. You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.
12. You sing along with elevator music.
13. Your eyes won't get much worse.
14. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
15. Your joints are more accurate than meteorologists or the national weather service.
16. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
17. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.



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Are you celebrating a special occasion and in search of some yummy goodies to put on the table? Then please feel free to contact Pink Spatula Creations to receive a quote for the making of cakes, cupcakes, cake pops or biscuits for any occasion.

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