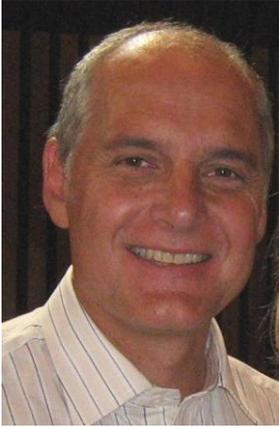


LIFE @ central

May 2017

Central Baptist Church, Pretoria





PASTOR'S CORNER

by Charles de Kiewit [Senior Pastor]

A "SENSE OF GOD"

Dear Friends

All of us can think back and recall moments of learning that stand out as significant. One of my moments of learning came back in my first year as a full time pastor. While busy with routine home visitation getting to know the congregation I visited an elderly member who impressed me as a devout man of God.

I loved to visit him. Our conversation quickly moved away from superficial chit chat to God and His word. Julius shared his insights and depth of knowledge from the Scriptures with me in a way that I had never before experienced.

It only took a few visits to establish what was so different about my new friend. I saw that he was a man who really lived in awe of God. As I got to know him better and better he started teaching me about what the Bible has to say about "the fear of God". I have never forgotten those sessions and to this day am convinced that all believers should be growing in their sense of who God is; along with the appropriate response of the fear of God.

Well know Zambian preacher and pastor, Conrad Mbwewe, recently wrote along similar

lines on his blog regarding what he raised as a concern regarding little or no "sense of God" among believers in the context of his country. He suggested that greater awe and devotion is given to excitement and competition around soccer than to our great and majestic God.

Is this true among us South Africans? Do we live our lives with a daily awareness of a "sense of God"?

While recently reading through the Old Testament I was confronted with a verse that has become a challenge to me. In 2 Chronicles 26:5 we find Zechariah instructing King Uzziah in the fear of the Lord.

It is my desire to do this as I teach and preach the Bible; that we would be a people growing in our loving awe of God.

As we continue with the series of "Serving the Lord with gladness" let us consciously seek to grow, praying that God will give us all a growing sense of who He is. Let us worship Him with heart, soul, mind and strength.

God bless

Charles

He set himself to seek God in the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God, and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.

2 Chronicles 26:5

CARING MINISTRY

by Lukie Dercksen [Care Pastor]



LEAVING THE PAST BEHIND

One of the things every person on earth has in common is that everyone has a past. There are memories of days we pray will never be repeated as long as we live and days that we wished would last forever. Good or bad, our past can cause much misery in the present. Many people are stuck in the past.

Some long for the "meat pots of Egypt", the good old days. They're never happy with their current circumstances always talking and living in the past.

Like Israel in Exodus 16:3: *"when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."*

For some the past brings back painful memories of hurt, pain, loss, disappointment, to name just a few. Consciously or unconsciously the past weighs heavily on them. Their inability to deal with the past makes them prisoners of their past.

Maybe you are stuck in the past. I want to encourage you to deal with the past and move on. Don't allow bitterness and resentment to grow in your heart.

As Christians, we believe that God is sovereign and that our lives are guided by His sovereign will. Instead of being stuck in the past we should be focused on the future. An athlete can't run and win the race while looking back the whole time. No, we put our trust in God, knowing that His ways are perfect. Forgive what needs to be forgiven, have the conversations that you need to have, but we need to grow and we can't grow if we're stuck in the past. ***Philippians 3:13: "But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,"***

Bloom where God has planted you.

Lukie

The *Life at Central* Magazine

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

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

Previous editions (2006 to 2016) are also available.

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

With Him

outside the camp

by H.C.

Central's
missionary
in North Africa

Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach He endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

Hebrews 13:13-14

This passage, Hebrews 13:13-14, has been an inspiration over the last few years as I was moving North into Africa on my way to the Beloved Country. It inspired me because it didn't show us a picture of an uninvolved Saviour, whose work is done and is now sending His minions to do the rest. His redemptive work certainly is finished - He has fulfilled what He came to earth to do - and we are his slaves¹, but in a sense He is still out there in the darkness where it is difficult and where His sheep are being killed for His Word. **He sends us** to the dark places where the church is not, but **He also calls us to Him** in the dark places who is already working in those places before we get there and then **He goes with us** as we go!

That is what inspired me and I think it holds true - the author really does want the readers to think about Jesus differently. But there is more! Recently, while preparing a message on this passage God showed me so much more and in the weeks after that the thought

lingered. I'm ashamed to say that I started preparing for the message with selfish reasons: I was planning to use God's Word to say what I wanted to say (that was my subconscious motive, which only became visible in looking back with His help), but then He spoke to me through this passage:

Heb 13:10-14 (ESV 2011)

¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. ¹¹ For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹² So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³ Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. ¹⁴ For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

The author has already explained the old system and how it points to Jesus, so this passage is not so much informative as it applies what has been taught in the letter. The Hebrews wanted to return to the tabernacle, the tent of meeting, the temple. They felt that Christianity didn't have as much beauty as Judaism. They were focusing on the

¹ I would argue that a slave with a perfect Master, Jesus Christ, is happier and freer than any 'free' man without a Master because that slave is taken care of and the Master knows what he needs and what is good for him. Even the work and sacrifice that the Master assigns to him might be hard, but is good for the slave!

tabernacle (inside the camp) while Jesus was outside the camp. So if you stood at the gate then the tabernacle, altar and the old covenant would be on one side and Jesus on the other. In this picture, the things that have pointed the Jews to the Messiah were now distractions and actually took the focus off of Jesus – now that Jesus had come, those shadows and copies have been replaced by the Real and focusing on them would lead them astray.

This is specifically about the ceremonial law and the fulfillment of it in Jesus, but there is also a pattern here. God uses earthly things to point us to the spiritual, to Him. That doesn't make the earthly things bad, but the moment we make too much of them and cling to them, they become a distraction.

I started thinking of all the areas where I did (or still do) that in my own life. The one thing I missed the most in North Africa was our church. I know that God has sent us, called us and is going with us to the Beloved Country, so if we were to stay here because of the church we would use a good thing to disobey His call / command to us. But praise God for not allowing me/us to stay: He has put people here that gently push us out in a loving way and He's put this realization in our hearts that we need to go North so that one day people from there can experience and enjoy His church (although it will look much different) like we do.

God has also made engineering, which was a good but earthly thing that I focused on too much in the past, fade in comparison. People often smile when I say that Him turning me into an English teacher is a regenerative work, but it is really true! ☺ In my previous life there was nothing in me that ever wanted to do or be anything other than an engineer, but now I do engineering, yet I miss my Arab friends and students that would greet us with a single phrase that they memorized in school: "How are you fine!"

Then God showed me where I am still focusing on earthly things, like money, visas, etc., but those things won't get us into our new home in North Africa, God will! And as soon as I think of these things, that sometimes worry me, I think of all the people, friends, brothers and sisters in church that have been giving and praying - giving up their earthly and fading cities (or comfort zones) and looking to Jesus and the city to come!

I thought of how my Arab friends would struggle with accepting Jesus, because they will lose everything. Their whole life would disappear overnight if they were to accept Christ, their community would abandon them if they don't kill them. Here we can go and find another community, in those countries you'll be alone. The only way they could ever do that is if we lift Jesus up as high as we possibly could, like the writer to the Hebrews does and then trust God to make them see!

Seeing Jesus then for Who and What He is (the God-Man, the perfect High Priest and the ultimate Sacrifice) makes the exhortation to "*go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach He endured!*" an easier task, since going to Him would mean being with Him and He is of supreme value and supremely beautiful and the "*reproach*" becomes bearable and SO worth it!

I'll end with the words of John Owen that I really love:

"Oh to behold the Glory of Christ! Here in would I live, here in would I die, here on would I dwell in my thoughts and my affections until all things here below become as dead and deformed things, and in no longer, any way, calling out for my affections."

In Him,

H & A

JUBILEE HOSPITAL

AN ONGOING MINISTRY

by Gisela Nicholson

Probably few members of the church know that the Jubilee District Hospital in Hammanskraal, about 40 km north of Pretoria, was once a mission hospital built by the Baptist Union and opened in 1955. Later it was taken over by the government and, from 1975, fell under the Homeland government of Bophutatswana. Many nurses were trained there (some of whom are now matrons and managers of other hospitals!), and through its clinics it provided health services for a vast hinterland area of several 100,000 square kilometres.

During all those years until today, the gospel has been proclaimed to patients and staff at the hospital. Even after it became a government hospital, for a while, most of the doctors and some senior staff were Christians and provided

a living witness for Christ. Both the Bophutatswana government and the present CEO were and is sympathetic to the gospel being ministered to patients and staff. It is an outstanding opportunity for the spread of the Word of God not only at the hospital but affecting the vast area around it. Among the various Medical Superintendents of the hospital, Dr. Gerald Malan and his Swiss wife Heidi stand out who put their stamp as deeply committed Christians on the hospital operations. Even after they moved to Pretoria on his retirement, they remained active, Gerald as doctor and Heidi as evangelist, traveling to the hospital several times every week. After Gerald's death in 2007 Heidi still went every week to Hammanskraal to minister to the patients until her own death in May 2014.



The Chapel's roof being repaired in 2016

Two lady evangelists, Jane Mathe and Germina Chauke, are working full-time giving morning devotions in the wards, preaching at Sunday Services in the Chapel and going from bed to bed following up patients who responded to the preaching on Sunday, comforting those who are seriously ill and counselling those who are in desperate need, e.g. young girls who suffered botched abortions. It is a vital ongoing ministry.

In answer to much prayer over the years a part-time chaplain has now been appointed, so that now at last, male patients in their wards (who refused the ministry of the women evangelists) can be reached. John Chauke is also responsible for coordinating the evening Chapel services.

Thanks to some large donations received from overseas, it has been possible to repair the Chapel which was in such a dilapidated state that services could no longer be held there, last year. Also, a modern sound system could be installed, so that services in the Chapel can now be heard in every ward of the hospital.

The running costs of the ministry such as remuneration of the two lady evangelists and now the newly appointed part-time chaplain, cost of transport, literature etc., however, far exceed the annual income received from friends of the Jubilee ministry. And so there is an urgent need for additional donors to come on board.

A ministry board consisting of Rev. Ron Dick (chairman) and Melanie Dick, Drs. Carol and Peter Bombal, Jane Mathe, Germina and John Chauke, David and Audrey Mothiboseng (who run the Lefika Camp Site which the Malans established), G. Nicholson and Nelson Abraham, Missions Convener of the Baptist Union, oversee the spiritual work at the hospital. We especially appreciate Nelson Abraham who travels all the way from Roodepoort to Pretoria for the twice-yearly meetings of the Committee after the Baptist Union had stopped supporting and completely distanced itself from this ministry in the 1990s.

Besides the need for additional funds a major concern is the need for new, and younger, committee members. The Dicks and Bombals, as well as myself, are all way beyond retirement age, and new members, preferably staying in Pretoria (or Hammanskraal) are urgently needed. Perhaps some members of Central would consider becoming involved in this vital ministry – especially as no-one knows for how long this door will be so wide open.

The fascinating history of the establishment of Jubilee Hospital has been described in a book written by me, "The Lord brought me here", which can be ordered from me at the price of R30. Should anyone be interested in receiving the twice-yearly newsletter you can contact me through email giselanicholson@gmail.com or by telephone 012 424 9125.

*The
Jubilee
Hospital
ministry
board*



The Question of Job -

A Matter of Faith

by Valerie Cotton

Many scholars believe that the book of Job crucially helped Israel come to terms with calamities that hit the nation. Job does focus on the problem of suffering. Many people say that tragedies they undergo push them to the wall with God. They theorise that God is punishing them: No, not God, it's Satan! No, it's God who picked you to give Him Glory. But it's neither God nor Satan. It is not a look at the problem of pain and suffering. Yes, the bulk of the book revolves around that theme (chapters 3 – 37) - the five men: Job, his three friends and mostly silent Elihu. People are shocked when suffering comes their way because they quite reasonably expect God to reward them with prosperity and health – do good and get blessed, do bad and be punished.

How can a child of God suffer as many disasters as Job. Job does focus on the problem of suffering, but then proposes another way of looking at the problem.

Chapters 1 and 2 make the important distinction that God did not directly cause Job's problems. God permitted them, but Satan actually caused the suffering. Job is not being punished. He has been chosen as the main subject in a great contest of the heavens. God is using him to prove to Satan that a human being's faith can be genuine and selfless; not dependent on God's good gifts. We are allowed this glimpse behind the curtain of the mystery of how Job will respond in a question of his faith. His struggles

with suffering and his questions become our questions. Satan's accusation that Job loves God only because "You have put a hedge around him" (1: 9), is an attack on God's character. It implies that people follow God only because they "get something out of it".

Job knows nothing about the cosmic contest of faith. He believes himself innocent of anything that merits such extreme penalty. The contest deals with Job's FAITH. Satan says "he will curse you to your face" (2:5). He loses because Job's character holds up.

Many people believe that Job is about patience, often quoting "the patience of Job". On the contrary, Job was far from patient. Says Job, "though I cry, 'I've been wronged!' I get no response, though I call for help, there is no justice"(19:7). Job questions God's fairness and goodness and love. He despairs of his own life: "I loathe my very life; therefore I will give free reign to my complaint and speak out the bitterness of my soul" (10:1). Like us, Job needs humility. Patience? "Yet if I speak, my pain is not relieved and if I refrain it does not go away" (16:6-9). "Is my complaint directed to man? Why should I not be impatient?" (21:4). Yet he refuses to turn his back on God: "Though He slays me, yet will I hope in Him" (13:15). He may give up on God's justice but he refuses to give up on God. His issue is on the integrity of God. How can a loving God treat him so unjustly. To admit that suffering is deserved would

compromise his own integrity for he believes himself innocent to merit such extreme penalty.

Job gives voice to some of our most deeply felt complaints. We cry into the night and there is no reply. Regardless of what Job thinks, God is not on trial – Job is. Job’s speeches contain profound expression of pain, despair and outrage. God did not condemn Job’s doubt and despair. The phrase “the patience of Job” hardly fits the protests that poured from Job. He did not take his pain meekly. It is not the pain and suffering we should look at as patience. Job insisted on his right to demand some explanation.

The point is FAITH. The core plot is that a blameless man suffers the worst calamities, a test of FAITH in the most extreme form. Satan claims that Job is conditioned to love God. Take away the positive rewards and watch faith crumble. Will Job believe, trust in God, or deny God? Job asks the questions we all ask. Why me? What did I do wrong? He has done nothing wrong. God calls him “blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil” (2:3).

Job is not about the problem of pain. Job is

about FAITH – a man selected to undergo a staggering ordeal. His response presents a message to every person on earth.

Job eventually passes the test of faith by clinging to belief in God even though he has no evidence in support of that belief, and much against it.

Job faced a crises of FAITH, not of suffering. We may not face the extreme disasters of Job, but a tragic accident, a terminal illness, loss of a job, may have us asking “Why me? What does God have against me? Why does God seem so distant?”. Job was being exalted, not spurned. The thought is that God cares more about our FAITH than our pleasure. Our choices of FAITH matters to God. How we respond matters. God is not deaf to our cries and is in control of this world.

Through his undeserved suffering, the righteous man Job gave an "advance echo" of Jesus Christ, who would live a perfect life, yet endure pain and death in order to win a great victory.

Reference: Philip Yancey: The Bible Jesus Read - Why the Old Testament matters.

SATURDAY, 13 MAY 2017

SAVE the DATE

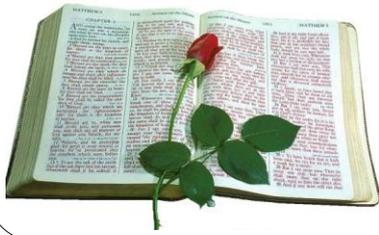
**BETHESDA FUN RUN
AND
FAMILY DAY**

10 K Race starting at 8 AM
5 K race starting at 9 AM

Food, Games, Prizes, Rocket Parachute, Bungee, and more

A GREAT way to spend a Saturday morning with friends and family!

Races cost R50 to enter if registration and payment is in BEFORE 1 May. (R60 on the day)



WOMEN'S VALUE

Compiled by Natasha Dercksen

A letter from Carol

Psalm 23

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

It's not easy for Christians to choose a healthy diet when Satan keeps passing an unhealthy plate in front of our noses.

You see, it's like offering a child the choice of a plate of vegetables or a bowl of astros. What do you think the child will choose? Of course he is going to choose the sweet tasty colourful treats which consumed in large quantities for long periods of time will harm and destroy him.

Feasting on the delights of the Lord should fill us and satisfy us enough to be able to make it easier to say no to those so called "sweet temptations" which in the end will destroy our very soul.

Our problem is that we don't eat enough from the feast which God offers. Our knowledge of the nutritional facts of God's Word is pint-sized despite the fact that each one of us has access to this feast which is so readily and easily available in this country.

We are fussy eaters, we pick and choose what we want to eat. The things we choose to consume are usually the things that taste nice and make us feel good. Every one of us has access to this "feast".

To choose those things that will make us spiritually strong and prepare us for battle and to

say no to the unhealthy choices the world offers. To make the choice to keep true to God's Word and keep our relationship with Him fresh and pure – healthy eating, is difficult.

What am I talking about?

I am talking about feasting on the Word of God, feasting on His pure delights.

If our soul is fully satisfied, we will not have space for the devil's colourful, sweet, soul destroying temptations.

Well then, how do we feast? How do we become fully satisfied?

1. Firstly we need to pray

Pray for God to give us the **desire** to feast on His pure delights:



Psalm 42:1-2

"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. Where can I go and meet with God"

This is the kind of desire every Christian should have. Let's pray for a hunger and thirst for more of God. He has promised to answer our prayer:

1 John 5:14

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."

It is God's will that we desire more of Him. However it means we also need to do something about the feasting. We have to put the food into our mouths and eat. This means ...

2. We need to be disciplined in feasting on His pure delights

- Being a healthy Christian means sitting down and digesting the feast set before you. Make time in your day to read His Word, to put on the full armour of God. Not just stuff God's Word into your mouth and swallowing, just for the sake of saying you have eaten. You need to digest the Word of God. Think about what you have read, apply it to your life. Let it prepare you for the day that lies ahead of you.

Psalm 143:8

"Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul"

Let God show you which direction you should be taking each day. If you never consult God's map book you will naturally take the wrong direction. We all need His daily direction.

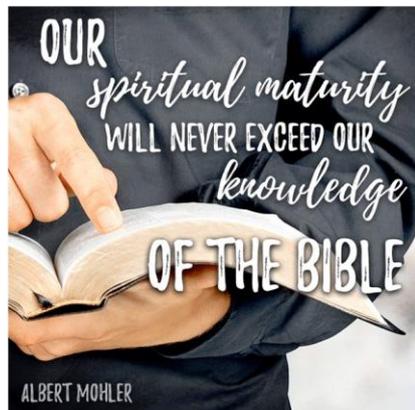
Matthew 26:41

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

- Being a healthy Christian means meeting with the rest of your Christian family regularly. We cannot expect to stay healthy Christians when we forsake the gathering of the saints.

Hebrews 10:25

"... not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching"



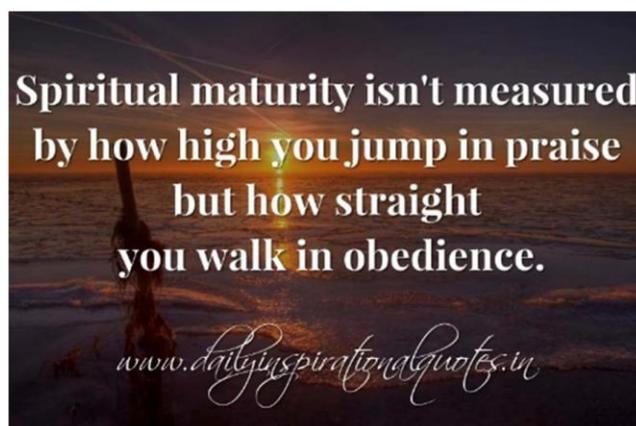
Are you an anorexic Christian?

- o There needs to be accountability one to the other.

- o There needs to be deeper teaching which we consume from a more experienced gardener, somebody who has spent time digging deep into the soil getting out all the natural goodness and freshness of healthy food which he will serve us on a Sunday, which is going to grow us.

- o There needs to be fellowship and singing together, praising and thanking God our Father who ultimately provides us with the very spiritual food which is going to sustain us into eternity.

3. Finally we need to be dutiful (obedient) to all we have digested



We need to digest His entire Word even the things that make me feel uncomfortable and move me out of my comfort zone. Even if it means me consuming something that is difficult to chew because it doesn't taste nice.

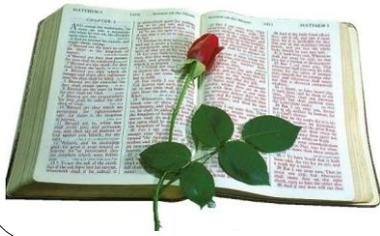
Friends, know that God will never give us anything in life which He cannot work out for His glory and for our good.

My prayer is that we would have a church full of satisfied

Christians, yearning for more of God and continuing to Feast on His pure delights.

Carol





WOMEN'S VALUE

"Soul-food" at King's Rubies

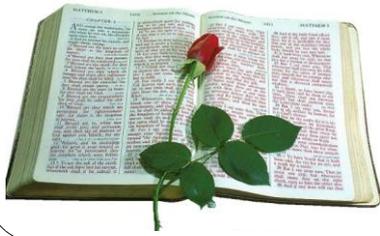
During our *King's Rubies* meeting held on 18 February 2017 Carol de Kiewit challenged us to take a look at our spiritual appetite as well as our "eating habits". She reminded us that although God's soul food never runs out, some of us only snack or don't eat at all from God's Word.

We were reminded that in the same way a table can be set with beautiful flowers and amazing food, it will not fill us if we don't eat the food with the result that we then become spiritually weak. We need to eat from God's Word daily.

We were challenged to keep an "eating journal" and document our prayers and answers. We need to make time to delight in His word and fall in love with the author of the Bible.

We ended the meeting with some scrumptious food and amazing fellowship.





WOMEN'S VALUE

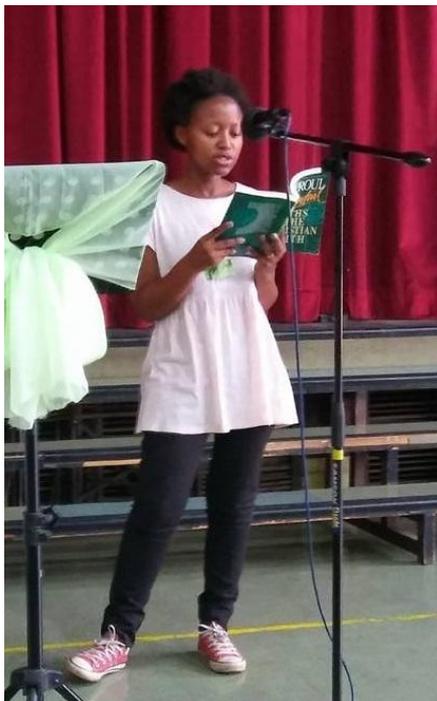


During the family getaway of 10 to 12 March 2017 the ladies of Central had relaxing fellowship with each other.



Some of our King's Rubies Ladies attending the workshop on raising your children in the pew.

At King's Rubies, February 2017

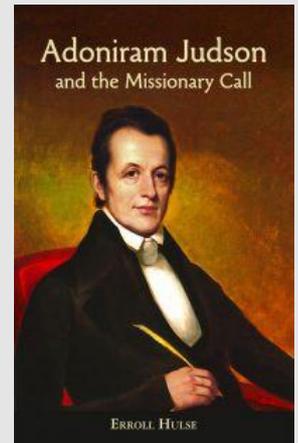


Extracts from

Adoniram Judson and the Missionary Call

Submitted by Val Nowlan

The following extracts, *Missionary interest in your church?* and *The progress of missionary vision*, are taken from *Adoniram Judson and the Missionary Call* by Erroll Hulse (published by Chapel Library). As background, Adoniram Judson (born in 1788) was the first foreign missionary from the United States of America. As the titles suggest, the first extract looks at some critical questions a church can ask itself regarding its attitude towards the mission field, while the second extract considers how missionary vision has developed or progressed over the past centuries. The entire article can be read online or downloaded from www.chapellibrary.org.



MISSIONARY INTEREST IN YOUR CHURCH?

Question 1

Is there a regular spot at the prayer meeting or in the worship services for a focus on missionary vision, current work, or particular missionaries?

Question 2

Is there a missionary fellowship meeting or prayer meeting devoted specifically to missions?

Question 3

Does missionary support form part of your church budget? What percentage of the church budget is devoted to missionary endeavour? Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, gives 34 percent of undesignated gifts to missions. This 1000 member church, which supports eight full time pastors, has sent out 52 missionaries.

Question 4

Do you write encouraging letters to missionaries? They love to receive letters.

Question 5

Are missionary books displayed on your church book table and are missionary books reviewed and recommended?

Interest in and support of missionaries cannot be artificially stimulated. The weapons of our warfare are spiritual. Prayer is essential.

THE PROGRESS OF MISSIONARY VISION

As long as Christians heed the words of the great commission as recorded in the concluding paragraph of the gospel of Matthew 28:19-20 they will expend themselves in missionary endeavour. John Calvin trained and sent missionary church planters into his native land of France, by which the Church grew there to over two million members.

The Moravians sent missionaries to Persia, Egypt, Greenland, America, the Caribbean and many parts of Africa. William Carey (1761-1834), Robert Morrison (1782-1834) and Adoniram Judson represented a new race of pioneer missionaries breaking into new regions. When Robert Morrison arrived in China, there were fifty missionaries labouring in that country. The progress made by these earlier missionaries made it possible for Hudson Taylor to promote a new emphasis of reaching the inland areas of China. This general trend of reaching the heartlands of nations is reflected in the names of missionary societies such as the China Inland Mission, Sudan Interior Mission and the Africa Inland Mission.

In the second half of the 20th century, the inspiration developed that it was possible to translate the Bible into every language. The best known agency attempting to fulfil this vision is Wycliffe Bible Translators. Wycliffe now numbers 5,000 translators dedicated to reach the many languages which remain.

A further modern development is the concept of people groups. India for instance represents 3,000 sub-nations or people groups, of which some 2,000 have not been penetrated. They do not have a witnessing church that is native to their particular social group. The northern provinces of India, such as Uttar Pradesh – 139 million – and Bihar – 86 million – are hardly reached and virtually represent unevangelized nations. A whole new army of missionaries like Judson is needed to undertake this task!

“Sew outreach into
the garment of your life.
Sow outreach into
the garden of your soul.”

Val Nowlan

Dear Single Sisters

by Zita Hansungule

Dear Single Sisters

Can I share my heart with you, from one single sister to another? I wish I could sit with you, share a cup of tea (or whatever tickles your fancy ☺) and let you know that it's ok. It's ok to be single. Actually singleness is wonderful and can be God glorifying if you allow it to be.

Oh the joys and heart-warming experiences that come from basking in what God wants you to learn and do as a single person. I am not saying that you will not have periods of longing and loneliness, you will and that's ok. What counts is how you respond to these periods. Will you wallow or will you take your longings to the Throne of Grace, pour your heart out to the Sovereign God and caring Father who truly truly knows how you feel and leave them in His hands? If you have no desire for marriage now (or ever) that's ok too. Will you go before the Throne of Grace and seek God's wisdom and guidance in what he wants you to pour your heart and life into?

You need to understand - I am desperate for you to understand - that you can do so much and have so much influence as single woman in the work of building and growing God's kingdom.

Here's what's not ok! Believing the lie that you are less than because you are single. Believing the lie that you cannot serve, honour and glorify God to the fullest because you are single. Believing the lie that life has not "truly begun" because you are single. It grieves me that single women are fed this lie and believe it. I would like to share some wonderful truth with you, it does not matter who you are or if you are single; if you are a Christian Ephesians tells you and me the following:

"... it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

You have been saved! You are being sanctified! And God requires of you to be obedient to His Word and to honour and glorify him in ALL that you do. Single sister, how are you honouring and glorifying God in the way only a single woman can?

Do you have the heart and desire to disciple then learn from those who have discipled and do it; do you have the heart and desire to teach God's word then be taught by those who teach and do it; do you have the heart and desire for missions then seek out a missionary or a missions organisation and pour your heart and life into it; are you a budding scholar that enjoys learning then do it to the glory of God; are you fascinated by architecture, engineering, information technology, being a teacher and more then get into whatever it is that fascinates you and do it to the glory of God. I could go on and on but the point I am desperate to put across to you is there is so much to do, so many people to comfort, to help and minister to, the thought at what you could do excites me. Just don't waste your life.

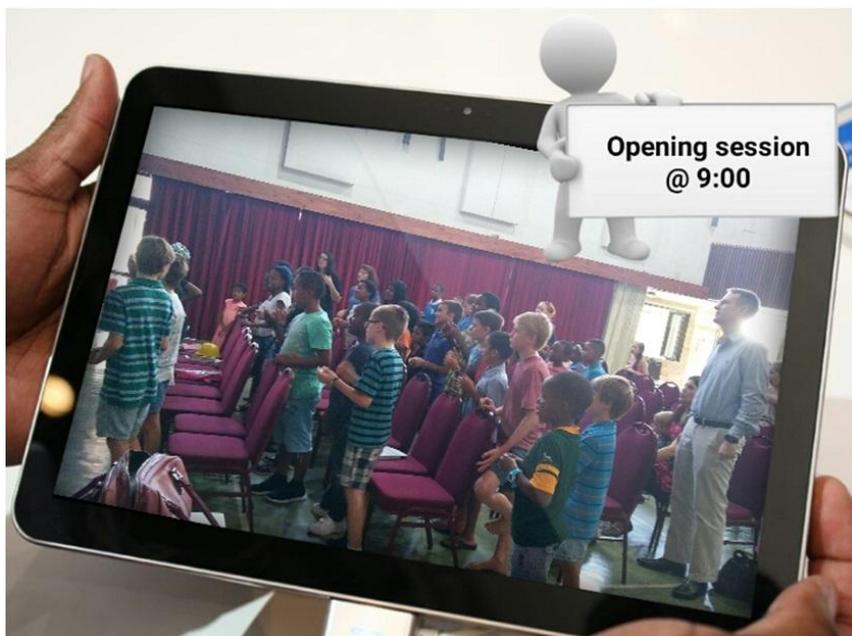
To the church, how are you going to help the single woman do this? How are you going to make sure that she is fed spiritually, encouraged to use her gifts for the Kingdom and reminded that she is loved and essential?

With Love

Zita

KINGDOM KIDS

@ Arcadia Campus



Kingdom Kids @ the Arcadia campus is under a revamp. We now start at 09:00 in the hall where we all (pre-school to grade 7) come together for the communal opening, before we separate to our different classes.

During this opening time we worship the Lord together with a song, we take up collections and we celebrate birthdays. After a small object lesson we head out for our classes.

Our Kingdom Kids are challenged to bring their friends to church to join the fun.

Our Children's Choir is practicing very hard every Sunday and spoils us every now and then with a song.



YOUTH

@ The Hill

Don't miss out on all our fun and Godly teaching on a Friday night @ the Hill from 18:00 to 19:00.

By Natasha Dercksen

CENTRAL GETAWAY

2017

The annual *Central Getaway* took place over the weekends of 3-5 and 10-12 March at the picturesque Waterberg Game Lodge just outside Bela-Bela. The teaching was led by Hans and Ruth van Stormbroek, and focused on John 4:1-45, presented in four sessions named *The Hawk and the King*, *Sin and Shame in Samaria*, *Worship and Witness at the Well*, and *Spiritual Spring from Within*. In between the teaching sessions there was more than enough time for other fun activities, which included a nature walk, bug hunt, mud fight, cycling, volleyball and ultimate frisbee.



**Be The Centre
(Jesus, be the
centre)**

Jesus, be the centre
Be my source, be my light
Jesus

Jesus, be the centre
Be my hope, be my song
Jesus

Be the fire in my heart
Be the wind in these sails
Be the reason that I live
Jesus, Jesus

Jesus, be my vision
Be my path, be my guide
Jesus

Words by Michael Frye
1999



Photos by Christene Wessels and Natasha Dercksen

Bethesda Outreach Newsletter



Raised to Praise

Bethesda Outreach

February 2017

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



Do I smell birthday cake?

- Mike 6 March
- Peter 12 March
- Busi 24 March

- Addison, Thabiso & Buyi 25 March
- Rose 26 March



Christmas Offering 2016

The entire Bethesda Outreach Family is rejoicing at God's provision through the generous response of His people to our 2016 Christmas Offering project.



We are happy to announce that our goal of \$40,000/R520,000 for boreholes/wells and a community home was **EXCEEDED** as our Bethesda friends and partners in orphan care gave an overwhelming offering of \$91,000/R1,183,000!

The funds over and above the designated goal will be used to develop community homes, care for necessary capital projects on our grounds and address a few needs that were on our 'waiting to be funded' list.

Many, many thanks to our generous God and to you who gave so generously. We will work hard to be sure your investment has a significant impact on caring for orphans and vulnerable children in a gospel focused, family centered and church driven way.

Blessings! don



“Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name;
 Make known His deeds among the peoples
 Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;
 Speak of all His wonders
 Glory in His holy name;
 Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad
 ~Psalms 105:1-3



Bethesda Outreach Newsletter

Meet Thabo and Johannah Malapile, new houseparents



Thabo and Johannah Malapile have taken on the challenging and rewarding ministry of becoming parents to seven children plus one of their own, Masego. Johannah has been a houseparent reliever for Bethesda Outreach for many years and has been a faithful helper in our homes. When she heard that we were looking to train and develop some houseparent couples to come into the homes during the times our houseparents were on annual leave, she and Thabo took up the challenge. Little did they know that shortly after they were trained to be assistants would they be asked if they were interested in a permanent position.



Together, they have raised several children, some of whom are already adults. Their daughter, Masego, joins them as they begin this new adventure. Thabo works for the South African Police Services (SAPS) as a detective and Johanna keeps very busy in the home. As you may know, they have taken the place of the Letswalo's who recently moved on. It is not easy to move into an established home and become the "new parents." Please pray diligently for Thabo and Johanna as well as the children as they continue to adjust, learn about each other, grow spiritually and raise children to follow Christ.

Bethesda's Got Talent 2017



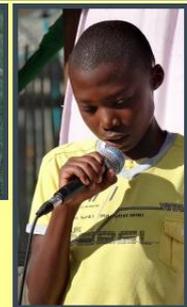
"I Am Not Forgotten" was one of the items performed this year at Bethesda's Got Talent 2017. It was one song that really stood out as two of our Bethesda children performed a traditional dance routine to it while it was being sung (recording) by a group of orphan children from a children's home in Uganda. What a powerful testimony of God's knowledge of each of us no matter our family situation.



Bethesda's Got Talent is an opportunity for our children to work on and perform a musical number, do a skit, or recite memory verses that they have learned. This year, there was a theme of water and God's provision of rain and water. We enjoyed decorations of Noah's ark, fish, and water. Since we've been in a drought for two years, we thought it was a great theme! Each child who performed was able to choose a new hat that the Stoffels had brought with them.



It is also an opportunity for our entire staff and families to enjoy a braai (cookout) as well as casual time with one another. It was hosted by Don and Fran Stoffel,



along with Darcie Kozlowski who have organized this event for the last 4 years. We are so thankful for their love for our families and their desire to provide opportunities to encourage our children to develop their God-given talents and abilities.



For more information on serving at Bethesda, visit www.bethesdaoutreach.org

HAPPENINGS @CENTRAL

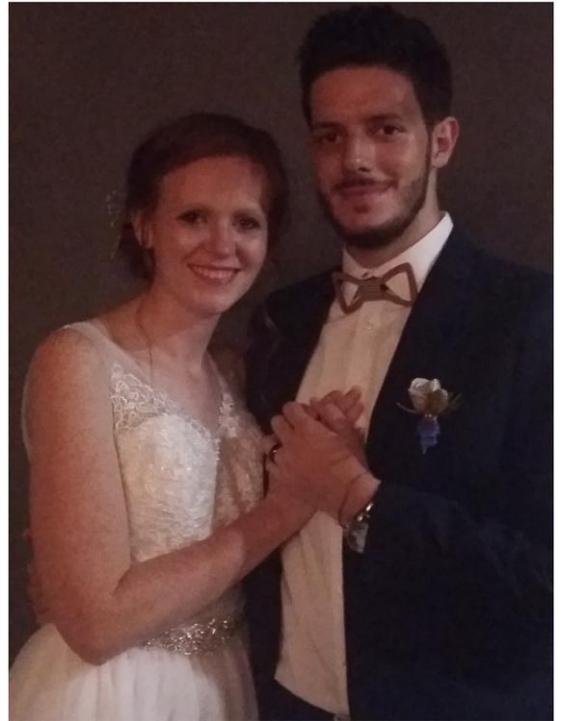


*Wedding,
March 2017:
Henk and Sally
Vernhout*



*60th wedding anniversary,
March 2017:
Max and Christobel Ansell*

*Wedding,
February 2017:
Andreas and
Danielle Kolby*



*Wedding, 16 December 2016:
Michelle and David Smith*



Wedding, 8 April 2017: Brington and Koketso Phiri





*Engagement, 24 February 2017:
Matthew de Kiewit and Marlize Labuschagne*



*Engagement, February 2017:
Jay Bembe and Brittany Wheeler*



*Engagement, March 2017:
Christo Sadie and Celin James*

*Farewell,
January
2017:
Brandon,
Janine,
Hadassah
and Seth
Boman*

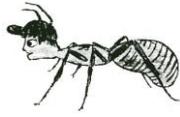


*Dedication, January 2017:
Ofentse and Mosh Piet with Abigail*

*Welcome to
Anna
Makgatho's
grandchild,
January
2017*



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.

HARRY, THE HAIRY WORM

The Missionary in the Chapel was reading from 1 Corinthians 15 verses 51 to 54. "I am letting you into this strange and wonderful secret." "Oh boy! A secret!" Siphosaid. "We shall not all die, but we shall all be given new bodies! It will all happen in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye. When the last trumpet calls." he read.

A trumpet call in the sky! Siphosat on the edge of his chair to listen.

The Missionary read on. "For there will be a trumpet call from the sky and all the Christians who have died will suddenly become alive with new bodies that will never, never die: then we who are still alive shall suddenly have new bodies too. Our earthly bodies, the ones we have now that can die, must be exchanged for our heavenly bodies that cannot perish but will live forever."

Later that day Siphospoke to his father. "How is it possible, father, that I a Swazi boy will one day be able to walk the streets of heaven?" he asked with his brows furrowed with thought. "After all," he went on, "look at me! How will I get up there when I can't fly?" and with that he began to flap his arms as if he were trying to fly.

"And you haven't the kind of body that can walk through closed doors as Jesus did." his father added smiling.

"Exactly." said Siphosaid. "In other words, I've got a body for this earth. How can I go and live in heaven where things are so different?"

"By a miracle from God, my boy." answered his father.

"But how?" asked Siphosaid, still not satisfied.

"Siphosaid," began his father, "you have been born again, as the Bible puts it, haven't you?"

"Yes, father, I have come to Christ confessing my sins and have committed my whole life to Him. I know I belong to Jesus." Siphoreplied.

"Then He has put a seed within you which will one day change you and make ready for heaven. That seed is His Holy Spirit." his father continued. But Siphosaid still looked puzzled, so his father added, "Tell you what, we'll get some green leaves together and a shoe-box and invite Harry the Hairy Worm to come and stay with us for a few

months.”

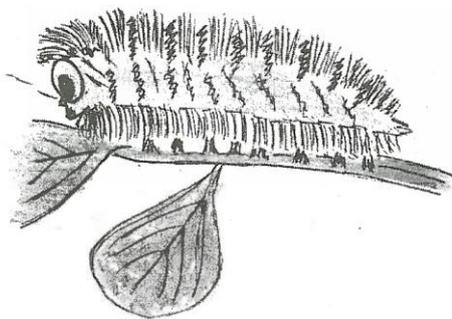
Harry was quite happy to stay in the box because Sipho and his father fed him on green leaves daily.

“Isn’t he ugly!” whispered Sipho quietly, in case Harry heard him.

“Do you think so?” quizzed his father. “Actually, he is a very beautiful butterfly.”

“Not really?” said Sipho in amazement.

“Yes, God had put in Harry the Hairy Worm a seed which will eventually turn him into



a beautiful butterfly. Just like you have the seed to change into, not an angel, but a heavenly person, a person who can live with Jesus in heaven” his father explained.

Every day they watched Harry eating and eating. Then one day Harry got sleepy. He yawned and stretched himself a bit, then he didn’t feel hungry anymore and all he wanted to do now was to go to sleep.

So, he began spinning himself a bed and after a while he climbed in and went to sleep.

“Is Harry dead, Dad?” asked Sipho, worried.

“No, son, far from it,” said his father. “It is necessary that he goes to sleep now while God lets the seed develop in him to perform the great miracle that will occur

when it’s time for him to wake up as a butterfly.”

“Is this something like the thing we call death, Dad?” Sipho asked again.

“Yes, since Jesus rose from the dead, death, to us, is something like this. It is just the door between life on earth and life in heaven.” his dad explained.

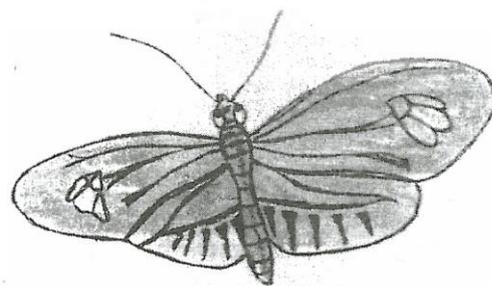
“And all the time God’s seed is in us waiting for the great moment?” whispered Sipho, gazing down at Harry’s box.

“Yes.” replied his father.

Many more days passed and then Sipho called out, “Dad! Dad, come quickly! Harry has woken up and is sitting on the edge of his box letting his wings dry.”

Sipho’s father arrived just in time to see the beautiful butterfly flutter its wings and lifting off the box fly out the window into the blue sky.

“Isn’t he beautiful, Dad?” said Sipho, “and to think that just a while ago he was an ugly, hairy worm.”



“And so it shall be with us, my son,” said Sipho’s father, “if we let the Son of God reign in our lives. We too will be changed so that we may go to heaven and be like Him.”

How will this all happen? By a miracle by God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BOOK *review*

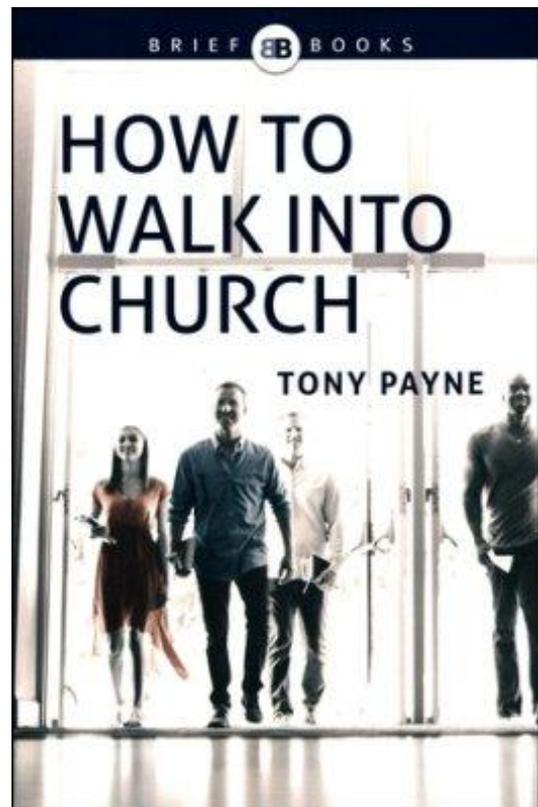
by Val Nowlan

HOW TO WALK INTO CHURCH

by Tony Payne

Not many moons ago as we drove towards church one Sunday morning, I found myself asking the question why am I going to church. I was horrified and mortified at the reality of having asked myself the question, let alone asking anyone else. Months passed and then I overheard someone else ask the question. It was not many months before yet another person was asking the same question.

And so, with this in mind, I thought to search my Kindle to see whether there was a book or whether there were books written by others who have asked that question. Sure enough there was one. It is written by Tony Payne and the title is *How to walk into church*. It is choice reading. For him getting to the Sunday morning service with his family of a wife and four children begs description! I'm sure most parents go into survival mode at this stage. But seriously he explores all sorts of thoughts and teaching on the subject of going to church. Many things he teaches have never even occurred to me... but it is all true, accurate and wholesome useful reading for all of us, all ages or whatever state or condition we are in physically.



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A reminder from the Central Getaway ...

- Let **reverence** mark your **behaviour**
- Let **faith** be your **freedom**
- Let **hope** be your **anchor**
- Let **prayer** be your **power**
- Let **worship** mark your **ambition**

The salesman and the applecart

A short story by Quinton Arundell

A team of salesmen were rushing to get a flight back home. In his hurry one of the salesmen tipped over an applecart which a young child sat behind selling her apples. As he felt his conscience pricking him he told his teammates to go ahead and catch the flight and that he would catch up to them.

The salesman went back to help the little girl pick up her apples. When he got there he noticed the little girl groping for the apples. He collected all the damaged apples and put them to the side and all the nice apples he put back into her cart.

When he had finished he put his hand into his pocket to take out money and offered to pay for the damaged apples. As he held out his hand the little girl did not respond and he realised that she was blind. He took her little hand and placed the money into it.



With a shy smile she turned to him and asked, “Are you Jesus, Sir?” “No,” he replied, “but why do you ask?” She answered “I prayed for Jesus to help me and because you helped me, I thought you were Jesus.”

Are you Jesus to the world by the way you live your life each day?

DOG

All-In-One Dog
Training and
Sitting Services



072 501 6783
Colleen Skinner

HOLIDAY HINT

To be sure your freezer hasn't defrosted and re-frozen while you are on holiday the following will help. Freeze a couple of inches of water in a plastic container. Place a coin on top of the frozen water. If the coin is half way down the ice when you get back you know it started to defrost and then refroze. Your food is probably still okay. If it is at the bottom toss all food!

Submitted by Lammie Fourie

JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Hath broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love
The breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
Here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Words by Charlotte Elliott, 1835