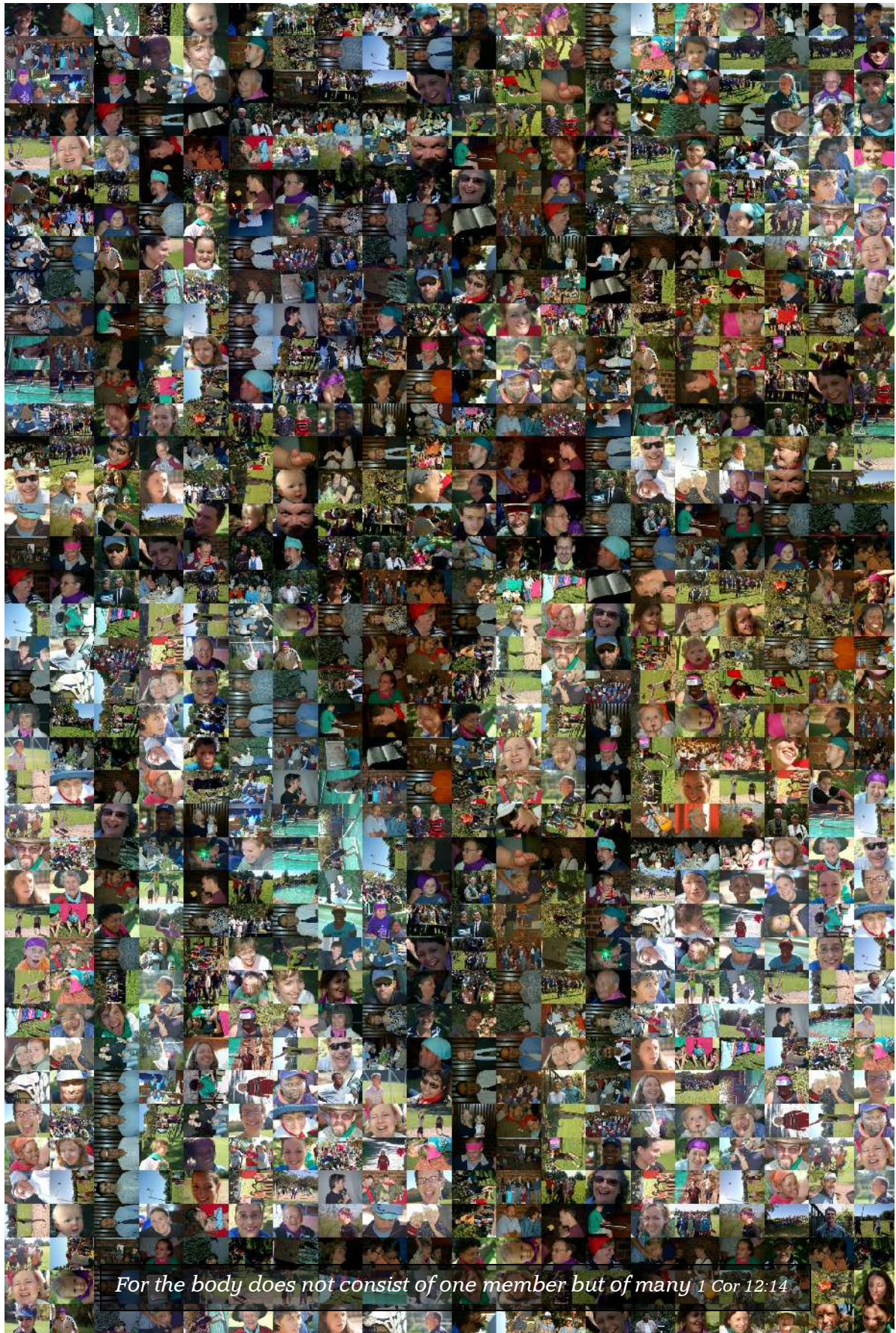


# LIFE AT CENTRAL

L I F E A T C E N T R A L

November 2007



*For the body does not consist of one member but of many 1 Cor 12:14*



*Dear friends*

The end of a year is a useful time to reflect and assess the life and ministry here at Central. I believe it has been a good year.

The evangelistic emphasis this year has been a great encouragement. The ongoing work of our EE3 teams as well as the outreach event with Terry Rae proved to be fruitful. We must not lose momentum in seeking to reach the world with the gospel. Being ambassadors for Christ must be part of our every day life and ministry.

Other ministries have continued to labour and for this we give thanks to God. People's lives have been touched and enriched as many of you have served and ministered in the family here at Central.

We must, of course, look ahead. I have become more and more constrained and challenged in the area of excellence in all we do. This lines up with Paul's teaching...

*1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

God and the work of His kingdom must receive the full weight of our devotion and effort. A maintenance mode of mediocrity can never be tolerated among those who seek to do all for the glory of God.

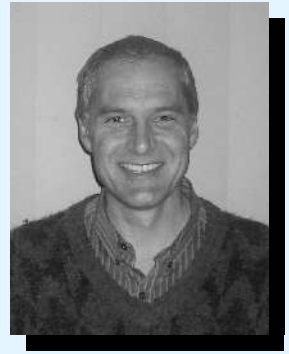
We are grateful to God for so much (ministries, people, resources etc) in this church. But I am convinced more can be done and what we do can be done in a more excellent way.

As this year draws to a close I will (DV) begin to lay the foundation of this emphasis with a series entitled ...Raising the bar ...in ...

Join with me as we glorify God in all we do.

Your Pastor

*Charles*



# Pastor's Corner



Cover:

A photomosaic (over 300 photos) of some of the friends and members of Central. The base image is of one of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary.

# FAREWELL

## TOTSIENS

by Gareth Simpson



We are very grateful to Central; for patience when I was finding my feet in ministry, for grace and empathy when I had my nervous breakdown, for so many opportunities to minister, for so many who have daily presented requests on our behalf before the throne of grace, for Central's faithfulness to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Scriptures. Please know that our leaving is not motivated by any hurt or frustration, but simply out of joyful obedience to the command, "Preach the Word" (2 Timothy 4:2). How can we not go to a little 103 year old church with mainly elderly people, when that church currently does not have a pastor? So please continue to pray for us, because apart from Him, we can do nothing (John 15:5).

**O**n 1 January 1997, I drove up to Pretoria to start my working life as a young graduate engineer. I was driving my old beige Datsun Pulsar with all my worldly possessions inside; a suitcase with clothes and linen, a hi-fi, a bar fridge, a tool box, a mattress and some camping stools. I didn't know anybody in Pretoria. I planned to work off the one year that I owed my bursary company, and then either go back to KwaZulu-Natal or overseas.

Eleven years later I am going back to KwaZulu-Natal, but not to do what I would have expected to do. I am going back to pastor the Lambert Road Baptist Church in Durban. As I look back over these eleven years, and Michelle the last nine years, we are very grateful for what the LORD has done in, and through, our lives. While we are excited about the challenge of ministry in Durban, we are also sad to leave so many people who have become like family to us. We will miss older folk who have treated us as their own grandchildren. We will miss many who became brothers and sisters to us. We will miss the students who were so open to our ministry. We will miss the children who think that I am a human jungle-gym.



# WELCOME!

**To Eric and Ros Robbins**



*Some words from Eric:*

**I**t is a huge privilege for me (together with Ros) to be called to Pretoria Central as part of the pastoral team. After what has seemed like such a long wait we are now looking forward to actually starting at the church and of course getting to know you all. We thought that to help you to get to know us a little better it would be a good idea to tell some of our story.

We are both profoundly thankful to God for our parents; both of us coming from homes where Christ was honored,

loved and served. My Dad was a Baptist pastor and while serving at Bulwer Road Baptist in Durban he married Ros' parents and dedicated Ros. We like to imagine that our romance actually started in those early days when Ros' mom would push the pram round to the manse to see the pastor's wife, and of course baby Eric!

But living in a manse didn't mean the automatic making of a little angel, and particularly during my early adolescent years I became a really naughty young boy. Nevertheless, even during those difficult years, God was beginning a work in my life. Missionaries from the Pocket Testament League stayed in our home at one time, and when they left they presented me with a small pocket size copy of the New Testament and Psalms. It was through reading that little Bible that I was saved. Christ began to change me and show me that he had a purpose for my life.

After completing my school education I studied Medical Technology and then went to UCT to study medicine. Throughout those years I experienced a deepening sense of God's call on my life. He opened up many doors of opportunity to develop my involvement in Christian service. I became involved in student witness at UCT as well as children's ministry and lay preaching whenever I got the opportunity. It was also during those years that I started studying theology through correspondence, something I only completed later in my life.

After graduating as a doctor Ros and I became married. The calling we both sensed on our lives actually dated back to the same youth meeting in Durban years before, where we had both independently committed ourselves to the service of Christ. And so we found ourselves together in the work of God. We served with AEF at Mseleni Hospital and then as missionaries in Namibia, before I took up my role as Missions Developer of the Baptist Union. This is the context in which we started our family and brought up our children, and how we thank God that today all three of them know, love and serve him.

A passage that has had a huge influence on my life is a fairly obscure little chapter, Jeremiah 45. It is the record of God's special message to Jeremiah's scribe Baruch. The key verse that really spoke to me is vs 5 "Do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not." The first time I read it was when I was making career choices after my graduation. And through the years I have returned to it over and over again.

The more I have reflected on this passage, and the more I try to understand it and apply it to my life, the more meaningful it becomes. So I invite you to let it speak to your life too.

#### My Pursuits challenged

Although he was already serving God quite effectively, Baruch had to be reminded not to pursue self-interest. We are not told what form his particular self-interest took, but he was probably experiencing some kind of personal loss because of the crisis in the land. Obviously, in our lives today, a certain amount of self-interest is legitimate; for example a measure of self-esteem is healthy and some self-protection is very necessary living in Gauteng! But the challenge here is really - don't let self-interest become your prime pursuit. Don't let it dominate your life or affect your usefulness to God. It seems that Baruch was so focused on his personal needs that he had lost sight of the big picture. Baruch was in danger of losing God's perspective.

#### My Perspective lifted

Therefore, in his message to Baruch, God shows him that he is wrong to be viewing everything from his own self-centered perspective. Doing so resulted in his outburst of self-pity expressed in verse 2 "Woe is me". God's reply to him in verse 4 was to lift his focus back to God's perspective. "I am still at work and in control". Oh for the ability to see our lives in the light of God's purpose and God's working. God's agenda has to do with his kingdom and his glory and with nurturing a people to become part of his Kingdom. This is the perspective God would have us develop in our lives today. "Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33)

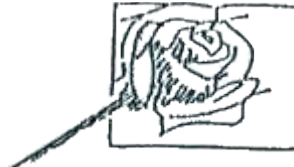
#### My Prize seized

In the last verse of the chapter God promises Baruch to at least preserve his life through the turbulent and destructive times Jerusalem was about to encounter. "But wherever you go I will let you escape with your life". Although he would not get the great things he dreamed of, this promise of preservation must have been a great comfort to Baruch. But in the original language this preservation is described as a "prize of war". The prize was his life, a life to plough back into the service of God through faithful service. The more we reflect on our life in Christ today (both spiritual and physical) the more we must realize that we are saved to serve. Our lives are a gift, a prize to be used to serve our master, untarnished by unworthy self-interest. What a gift to cherish, what a prize to seize!

**"O to be saved from myself, dear Lord.  
O to be lost in thee."**

**"O that it may be no more I but Christ  
who dwells in me"**





**A COMBI FOR CENTRAL -**  
**OUR EXPRESSION OF THANKS**

**T**he folk of Rosendal are busy, enthusiastic and excited as they raise funds to buy a new Toyota Quantum. Several projects have been completed bringing in a grand amount of money and a R100 000 gift from one of our residents really set us going. Added to this we have been given the support of Cebacwas who understand the need to replace our current combi with a more reliable vehicle considering the outings the residents enjoy to country places.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> September a special tea was held to thank the Cebacwas Board for their support. Being a Tuesday there was limited attendance but we were pleased to welcome Pastor Charles de Kiewit, Dr and Mrs Ken Paine and Mrs Deana Cain plus our past General Manager, Mr Alton Mills. At the conclusion of the proceedings there was a surprise in store as we handed over the keys of our current Ecobus to the Central Baptist Church. Pastor Charles' delight was evident and it was thrilling for us to hear, after the presentation, that the church desperately needed a combi, especially for the Youth Work. God works in wonderful ways and we, the folk of Rosendal, are delighted to be a channel of His blessing.

The reasoning behind the gift was, if there were no Cebacwas there would be no Rosendal and if there were no Central Baptist Church there would certainly be no Cebacwas. Added to this, the ministry given to Rosendal by the church leadership is outstanding and a blessing to all. We can never overstate our thanks to the church and pray that the Lord will continue to bless the work done by all.

*ELEANOR PATTERSON - Manager*



1. Pastor Charles and Mr Mills with Mrs Margaret Farenhem, a resident of Rosendal.



2. Dr and Mrs Ken Paine and Mrs Deane Cain with Mrs Lenie Daniels, a resident of Rosendal



3. Mrs Farenhem handing over the combi keys to Pastor Charles as Mrs Eleanor Patterson, the Manager, looks on.

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Our PR Number: 8828865

# WOMEN'S VALUE



*Dear Friends*

*I feel so blessed and spoilt by the Lord for giving me the opportunity of accompanying the Bethesda team to their board meetings in the USA. It was sooooo exciting driving to the airport realising that I wasn't going to leave a traveler at the airport and return home, but that I was one of the travelers. I have been asked a couple of times "what was the best part of the trip?" There is not one answer to that because I just loved the whole experience. However, I can share the reasons I enjoyed the trip so much.*

- It was wonderful having the chance to get away from the rut and daily routine of busy motherhood for two weeks, knowing that my children were well taken care of. Charles and I enjoyed the first 2 days of being on our own discovering the fun of touring Washington DC.
- The Bethesda board members wives, who were there, were invited to sit in on the meetings. This was really encouraging and enlightening for me to be able to hear about and feel part of the ministry.
- Seeing other churches from another part of the world, sharing with their pastors, pastor's wives and church members was a tremendous encouragement to me.
- We felt privileged to go to John and Lois Mixon's home church, meet some of their supporters and friends, see where they used to live and work, get to know their pastors better and just enter their world a little more.
- Charles' sister and brother-in-law live 45 minutes away from the Indianapolis airport so we were able to visit them, see their home and the ministry they are involved with. We were also surprised by a visit from their son and his new American wife who flew in from North Carolina just for 2 days to see us.

- Finally the fellowship we enjoyed with the other board members and their wives was just great (yes, even Mark and Jen ☺). To allow others to speak into your life and spur you on to a deeper walk with the Lord is a wonderful thing.

*So as you see, I have every reason to feel blessed and most grateful to God for this opportunity. Thank you to those of you who were so kind and caring to our children and family while we were away, we do appreciate our church family.*

*After all this, there is not much left to say other than we look forward to another year of spiritual growth in 2008 and good fellowship among the Kings Rubies women.*

*May you and your families have a Christmas which is filled with an awareness of God and His Son and what this Gift has meant to us.*

*Luv Carol*

-----oOo-----

*some words from Margie:*

*This is the last issue for this year and so may I take this opportunity of wishing everyone a joyful and very blessed Christmas! If you are traveling, please be careful, be safe and come home to us refreshed. For those who are writing exams or awaiting results, may your efforts be rewarded.*

*I feel that Christian Christmas has been hijacked by the secular world. Christians generally are denied the right, afforded to so many other religions in the free world, to express what Christmas is all about. This excerpt, received by e-mail, expresses it all:*

*"Holiday Greetings to Everyone!*

*I wanted to send some sort of holiday greeting to my friends, but it is so difficult in today's world to know exactly what to say without offending*

someone. So I met with my attorney yesterday, and on his advice I wish to say the following.

"Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit, my best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non-addictive, gender neutral, celebration of the summer solstice holiday, practiced with the most enjoyable traditions of religious persuasion or secular practices of your choice, with respect for the religious/secular persuasions and or traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all. I also wish you a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year of 2008..."



### **MEDICAL SLOT**

Summer is here and we have had plenty of rain! Please make sure, if you are traveling, whether the area you are visiting is a Malaria area. Take the necessary precautions! Malaria is a killer! Don't take chances with your health!

### **KING'S RUBIES**

Our meetings for this year are over. The committee will be meeting in November to decide on next year's programme. Do make a plan to join us. All Ladies, whatever age, are welcome. It is fun and spiritually beneficial.

### **DENOMINATIONAL NEWS**

5th Nov. – Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer  
10<sup>th</sup> Nov. – BNAWD Christmas meeting at Florida Church

Lana was our representative at this year's Assembly. Her report follows.

## **ASSEMBLY 2007**

*Lana Pelser*



Women's department of the Baptist Union Of Southern Africa

**Although I attended MANY meetings, I attended several VERY good and inspiring meetings with messages delivered by ladies for ladies.**

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON:** Patricia Ihlenfeld – the BWD director, spoke on the LORDSHIP OF CHRIST IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PASTOR'S FAMILY. She had as Text verse Joshua 24:14 – "Now fear the Lord and serve Him with all faithfulness"

**SUNDAY MORNING:** We had tea outside under the trees. Pearl Grunewald used Deborah as an example (Judges 4) and like Deborah she spoke to us from under a palm tree!

Deborah knew how to lead – through other people. She was a servant first and then a leader.

Ministry leaders must:

- Know how to delegate
- Live close to God and be available to God
- Know what God wants
- Spend their time to do what they can
- Know that God is in control of their ministry – not they or the pastor's wife.
- Go and do it!

Each of the ladies received a book: "Giving Christ first place"

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON – BWD BUSINESS MEETING**

(The Agenda and reports are available if needed.)

Some points of interest:

- Pearl Grunewald spoke again – as outgoing president. Her theme for the year was "There is Hope at the Cross". She wants to add a PS to that message – Keep near the Cross! She used the example of a pencil – God is in you and the eraser can erase your sins.
- Terry Basson gave feedback on Hidden Treasures.



- Margie Martin is again the coordinator for Bible Way.
- Patricia gave feedback on the conference she attended in Kenya – she was the only lady from the BU.
- The target for next year's thank offering is R60,000
- The next Baptist World Alliance meeting will be in HAWAII – start saving ladies!
- **BERNICE MOJI** was voted in as President elect.

### MONDAY EVENING

Pearl Grunewald welcomed everybody and monetary gifts from Hidden Treasures were given to pastors who served for many faithful years. Carol's parents and Pastor James Scott also received gifts.

Wendy Maharaj was then inducted as the new BWD president

About Wendy: She is a widow (and was not a pastor's wife) Some of her family and friends attended, among them her Norwegian son in law to be. She works at a hospital for retarded people. Up to the age of 5 she could only speak Afrikaans but then her parents moved to Natal. She later married a Maharaj – a high name amongst the Indian people, but now she knows an even Higher name – her Lord and Saviour.

She spoke well and had an inspiring message. Her strength comes from Joshua 1:9 - Be strong and courageous....do not be discouraged

Her theme for the year:

**Ps 96:8 - Give to the Lord the glory due to His name!**

Wendy and her only daughter then sang a duet.

Central gave a cheque of R2,244.00 and the total offering was R21,086.70 (with some still outstanding) Although the high budgeted target was not reached everybody was happy. Praise the Lord!

These meetings were well worth attending! The fellowship was blessed and the networking great!

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### WORTH REPEATING.

**Author Unknown**

Although things are not perfect

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

### QUOTE

**Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.**

*J.M. Barrie*





In October Pastor Charles De Kiewit, Mark Kingon and John Mixon, together with their wives attended the Annual Board meeting of Bethesda Outreach Ministries in Fort Wayne Indiana. Bethesda exists to: assist and encourage local churches in meeting the needs of orphan children that the children may become disciples of Christ. They have a home for children where 32 children are cared for just north of Pretoria at Hammanskraal



*Eating again! - at the board meeting*



*With hosts in Chicago*



*Bethesda Outreach Ministries – Raised to Praise*



*Charles and Carol - exhausted at the airport*



*The Bethesda Board*

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By Noel Durrheim

It was just after seven o'clock on a dark, cold winters night that a station wagon, carrying five people, drew up at a traffic light at Fountains Circle, on the outskirts of Pretoria.



We could barely discern the dark form of a scantily clad teenager, until he stood right next to the to the left front door of the car, he

raised a hand to strike the window, hesitated when he saw that the vehicle was fully occupied and beat a hasty retreat into the bushes from which he had come. When the traffic lights turned green, we proceeded to where a police vehicle, with its blue lights flashing, was parked adjacent to the Fountains Circle. When Pastor Norman, chaplain to the SAPS in Sunnyside explained that he had chosen this site as the venue of a prayer walk against crime, because it was a favourite spot for high-jackings, smash and grab as well as other serious crime, we realized that we had just escaped been the latest victim of a smash and grab incident.

This prayer walk was just one of the actions initiated by **SONRISE IN SUNNYSIDE**, a partnership between the SAPS Sunnyside and the Churches in the Sunnyside/Arcadia area, uniting in prayer for a God-fearing, peaceful and crime-free Sunnyside.

We were soon joined by a further dozen or so folk (including six young adults from Central Baptist). We spent approximately forty minutes engaged in spiritual warfare as we prayed in small groups. As we returned to the Sunnyside Police Station, I noticed strings of red lights scalloping the crown of a hill to the west of the Fountains Circle. On making

enquiries, I discovered that this was Freedom Park, which had been established to commemorate the freedom struggle and was told that ancestor worship is also practiced on this site.

My mind went back to that icon of the freedom struggle, **Nelson Mandela** and his autobiography, **"A Long Walk to Freedom"**, documenting the journey he and his comrades in arms had travelled on the road to a attaining



political freedom. Thirteen years on, however, millions of people have been sadly disillusioned by the realization that the promised Utopia has not materialized. Mass action in the form of strikes and protestors 'toi-toing' and rampaging in townships, demanding that the government make good on pre-election promises to supply housing, improve education and health services etc, seem to have become the order of the day. Social ills, such as violent crime and joblessness have been exacerbated by Government's inability/unwillingness to stem the seemingly endless flood of millions of illegal immigrants/refugees, from streaming into our country. Furthermore, the plight of those who are searching for solutions outside political structures are confounded by a plethora of diverse religious options, the vast majority of which do not afford any comfort or hope!

Question: **Has political freedom really set our people free?**

Answer: **Unequivocally NO!**



***Is there an answer to this dilemma?***  
**YES INDEED!**

It is abundantly clear that real freedom for individuals, communities and our country can never be achieved through political or social reform, no matter how laudable such reforms may be. True freedom is only possible through a person, the Lord Jesus Christ, as we appropriate God's gift of eternal life through His atoning death and resurrection.

***"IF THE SON SETS YOU FREE, YOU WILL INDEED BE FREE" (John 8:36)***

**Dr Chris Parnell**, that ardent soul winner, in his last newsletter (Parnell Prattle), dated 2007-07-16, quoted the following verse from a well-known hymn:



***"Weak is the effort of my heart, and cold my warmest thought,***

***But when I see thee (Jesus) as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.***

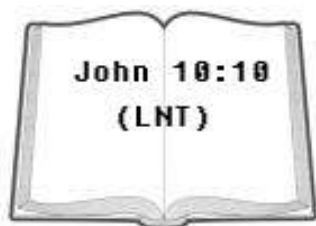
***Till then I would Thy love proclaim, with every fleeting breath, And may the music of Thy Name, refresh my soul in death."***

(I am sure that Dr Chris received a warm welcome, **"Well done good and faithful servant"**, when he went to be with the Lord on 2007-08-18).

Let us seize every opportunity to reach lost souls, by spreading abroad the message of hope and salvation, urging folk to put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said:

***"THE THIEF'S PURPOSE IS TO STEAL, KILL AND DESTROY, MY PURPOSE IS TO GIVE ETERNAL LIFE – ABUNDANTLY."***



NCD Ref: 9/2007 L/Exp

**AN INTERVIEW WITH**

## **Dr. J. I. Packer**

**Question:** *Dr. Packer, you have done a great deal of writing and speaking on the subject of the need for a new reformation, a new awareness of the sovereignty and grace of God in our day. How do you assess the condition of the state of evangelicalism, as it presently exists, and what do you think we can do about that condition?*

**Packer:**

I see evangelical strength needing desperately to be under-girded by Reformation convictions, otherwise the numeric growth of evangelicals, which has been such a striking thing in our time, is likely never to become a real power, morally and spiritually, in the community that it ought to be. I mean by Reformation truth, a God-centred way of thinking, an appreciation of his sovereignty, an appreciation of how radical the damage of sin is to the human condition and community, and with that, an appreciation of just how radical and transforming is the power of the Lord Jesus Christ in his saving grace. If you do not see deep into the problem, you do not see deep into the solution. My fear is that a lot of evangelicals today are just not seeing deep enough in both the problem and the need. But Reformation theology takes you down to the very depth of the human problem. And actually, the Reformation itself was a recovery of the tremendous contribution that the great St. Augustine made back at the turn of the fourth and fifth centuries. He was the man who, more than anyone else in Christendom, saw to the heart of the real problem. He saw how much damage sin had done, how completely we were oriented away from God by nature. He is the one who left us that phrase 'original sin' which he got from the text of Psalm 51:5: 'Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.' He also saw in response to our sinful condition, how great a work of transformation was needed by the grace of God in human lives. The sixteenth-century Reformers stood on Augustine's shoulders at this point. Of course, they clarified the great truth that justification by faith is the way in which the grace of God reaches us. We need, even today, a Christianity that is as deep and strong as that. And this, it seems to me, is where modern evangelicalism is lacking.

**Question:** *Would you say that there is a connection or a similarity between the man-centred theology of evangelicalism and the general humanistic spirit?*

**Packer:**

Yes, although I think that it is an indirect connection. Secular humanism, you see, is very man-centred. It encourages every individual to regard his or her own personal happiness as the supreme value. And the kind of evangelical religion which does not challenge this self-centred, self-absorbed standpoint, but, rather, reinforces it by making one's religious experience the most important thing in the world, or God's gift of personal contentment, happiness, joy, good feelings, or that kind of thing, is simply echoing the tenets of this type of modern humanism. A Reformational emphasis, however, challenges this by asserting that God is the centre, not man. We must recognize that he is at the heart of things and that we exist for his glory, that is to say, we exist for him, not he for us. And it is only as we set ourselves to glorify him as the one who supremely matters that we are going to enter into the joy and fulfilment which being a Christian brings. The first question of the Westminster Shorter Catechism puts it so well: 'What is the chief end of men?' answer: Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. The enjoyment comes as we set ourselves to glorify God. But if our concern is with the enjoyment, then we won't be glorifying God.

**Question:** *Dr. Packer, you mentioned just a moment ago, in referring to the proliferation and growth of evangelicalism, the lack of any real significant power of the cross and the gospel. Do you believe that modern evangelicals have lost their grip on the biblical gospel?*

**Packer:**

Well, in one particular respect we have got it all wrong. We are inclined to believe that God exists for us, God is waiting for us, God is there to make us happy. But in the gospel, God does not play the role of a butler. In the Gospel we are told that God, the Creator who made all things for his own praise and glory, has gone into action as mankind's redeemer. We human individuals are impotent of spiritual response, that is, response to God in any shape or form; but God first of all sends us a Saviour to make atonement

for our sins, and then he sends the Holy Spirit to change our hearts and make us willing to see and respond to Christ. Now, if we do not appreciate that our salvation is God's work in that absolutely radical sense, that is, God sends the Saviour, God gives us the gift of faith to respond to the Saviour, then we will not even be able to tell people what the gospel means. You see, we ought to be telling people that they are helpless, that they need Christ, and that they must ask God for new hearts and for the ability to trust Christ. In other words, you have got to tell them of their own spiritual inability right from the start. If on the other hand we forget this and go around saying that God is just there to help you, and that you call on him whenever you need to, that he is a sort of cosmic bell-hop, well, then we are misrepresenting the gospel in an absolutely fundamental manner. Until the gospel is understood as a message that obliges us to say that we are hopeless, helpless, lost, and ruined, requiring also that God does the work of salvation from start to finish, then we are not presenting the gospel as it is revealed in the New Testament.

**Question:** *Given the current trends of the evangelical movement, what do you see for the future?*

**Packer:**

I think that there is a big risk of fragmentation. Modern evangelicalism is simply too worldly, and the influence of the world is usually always a fragmenting influence. I think perhaps that evangelicalism has not yet learned the way of unity on anything except the outward trappings of united evangelistic efforts. And that in itself is only a shallow uniting factor because the gospel as understood by some doesn't correspond to the gospel as understood by others. And when it comes to all goals and objectives beyond evangelism, then I think that evangelicals are very seriously divided. There are some tightly connected with right wing politics, yet there are others, because of their emphasis on end times speculations, who really do not think that involvement in society is important at all. There are some who are only interested in the supernatural works of the Holy Spirit, such as faith healing or speaking in tongues, while others seem only interested in the implementations of psychology or self-help type programmes. So I see grave risks of fragmentation down the road.



The only thing that can unite us is a bigger, broader, deeper, wider and more generally agreed upon theology. And I find that theology only in the Reformation heritage.

**Question:** *If the theology is the only thing that will unite us, do you really think unity is at all achievable? Because from our perspective, the average evangelical, indeed the average Christian, it seems, is intimidated by theology.*

**Packer:**

First of all, theology simply means the study of God. This is something that every Christian needs to realize. I think the way that the word has been used in the past has frightened many Christians away from it, even though they never stopped to consider what the word actually meant. People got the idea somewhere that theology is the business of the seminary professors and the clergy, but has very little to do with the day to day living of the Christian life. It's something people seem to think you can get along without, provided that you read your Bible daily and think one or two guiding thoughts from your passage to keep you on the rails. I do not believe it is at all like that. But theology means the study of God, and if we are to love God, as we are commanded, with all our 'minds' then we need to be in the business of theology. So when I speak of theology, I am referring to the truth that God has given us all in Scripture which we all need to learn and digest. It is truth for life! Now, I am a professor of theology, but I must tell you that in all of my teaching and writing, I am trying to show that theology is supremely practical. If this could be seen, then I think people's fear of theology could melt away and they would appreciate, and benefit from, serious theological instruction. Again, if you will allow me to beat the drum once more, this is a Reformational emphasis. If you actually get around to reading the Reformers, such as Luther or Calvin, you will find that they did all their work from a pastoral standpoint, but at every point they are applying truth to the lives of people. What they were trying to do throughout their earthly lives was to build the people up in God's truth so their lives might bring glory to their Creator and Redeemer. It's as practical and down to earth, and as pastoral as that. That's what we need to get back to first, I think.

This is an interesting prayer given in Kansas at the opening session of their Senate. It seems prayer still upsets some people. When Minister Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas Senate, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is what they heard;

"Heavenly Father,  
We come before you today  
to ask your forgiveness and  
to seek your direction and guidance.  
We know Your Word says,  
"Woe to those who call evil good"  
but that is exactly what we have done.  
We have lost our spiritual equilibrium  
and reversed our values.  
We have exploited the poor and  
called it the lottery.  
We have rewarded laziness  
and called it welfare.  
We have killed our unborn and called it choice.  
We have shot abortionists  
and called it justifiable.  
We have neglected to discipline  
our children and called it  
building self esteem.  
We have abused power  
and called it politics.  
We have coveted our neighbour's  
possessions and called it ambition.  
We have polluted the air  
with profanity and  
pornography and called it  
freedom of speech and expression.  
We have ridiculed the time  
honoured values of our  
Forefathers and called it enlightenment.  
Search us, Oh, God,  
and know our hearts today;  
Cleanse us from every sin  
and set us free.

Amen!"

The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest. In 6 short weeks, Central Christian Church, where Rev. Wright is pastor, logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those calls responding negatively. The church is now receiving international requests for copies of this prayer from India, Africa and Korea.

With the Lord's help, may this prayer sweep over our Nation's and wholeheartedly become our desire so that we again can be called "one nation under God."

# God Meant It For Good

by Jon Walker

*"You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result."*

(Genesis 50:20 NIV)

**J**oseph's life was anything but peaceful. It was complicated by youthful folly, broken dreams, and the mean-spirited actions of others. Sold into slavery by jealous brothers. Thrown into prison on false charges. Yet he remained a man remarkable for his lack of bitterness or regret, always seeing God as the "Great Engineer" behind even the worst of circumstances.

In a final confrontation with his brothers, he graciously noted, "You meant it for bad; God meant it for good."

The theology packed in that statement is astounding. "God meant it for good" means:

**You can accept the past** – No sin, no action, no choice on your part is too big for God to handle – or too big to be worked for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28) Just ask Joseph! Better yet, ask his fearful and famished brothers, who were forced to rely on him for survival.

**You can embrace the present** – There's no need to play the "what if" game. The past is gone, and no energy you expend will ever change it. The future is in God's omnipotent hands, so you're free to focus on the present. Your job is to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, trusting him to forgive the past and transform the future. Martyred missionary Jim Eliot once wrote, "Wherever you are, be all there" – not living in the past and not fantasizing about the future. *God wants you in the present because that's where his grace will flow.*

**You can look expectantly toward the future** – Even if you make mistakes today, God still controls your future. Walking in the Spirit, you can live life to the fullest, unafraid of making mistakes and unconcerned that you may stumble into some terrible circumstance that takes you out of God's control. Even when things appear to be terrible, you can trust that God is working out some divine plan through you.

## What does this mean?

**No matter how bad things get** – God is still able to bring good out of it. Today, thank God that nothing – no disaster, no delay – is bigger than his ability to turn it into something good and godly.

**Thank God and let go** – Thank God that he is sovereign over your past, your present, and your future.

§ Give God the circumstances, disasters, hindrances, hurts, and sins from your past.

§ Give God your current situation, your disasters, hindrances, hurts, and sins of today.

§ Praise God that he can work anything in your future for godly good, that you can walk in confidence that there is nothing anyone can do to you, or anything you can do that will be beyond the reach of God's grace and redemption.

**Look for God's hand** – Walking by faith means you see God's hand even in the most difficult of circumstances. You trust his ability and his willingness to transform the bad into godly good. God is not limited by people's motives. In other words, it doesn't matter why someone hurt you, God still can transform a deliberate, mean-spirited situation into something for his good.

**What will you allow God to change?** – There it is: some situation, or event, or person in your life that, as far as you can tell, was "meant for bad." How do you think God meant it for good? Ask God what he wants you to do with this situation (event or person). When he answers, do it.

© 2007 Jon Walker



"Step right in... I'll hold the door for you!"



# SALT AND LIGHT

By Ruth de Villiers

**L@C INTERVIEWS CARL & DOROTHY QUEIROS and ADRIAN de VILLIERS**

We live in a wonderful world. But ... there is so much dysfunction and sadness. More and more, Christians are realizing they have a role as *salt of the earth* and *light of the world*. The church is addressing orphans, poverty, and other social issues. But, what about your *neighbour*? The church's role...or **yours**?

**Background:** Early in 2007, the middle-class, family suburb of Lynnwood Ridge was targeted by a systematic series of home invasions, armed robberies and personal assault by a ruthless gang. Community volunteers called a meeting in the local school to suggest structured, pro-active initiatives. Even before the meeting, a student who had planned to attend, was shot as he worked at his computer after midnight. Up till then, there had been injuries in the suburb, but **now... it was murder.**

**L@C:** Carl, you're the chairman of Lynnwood Ridge Community Policing Forum (LRCPF). Tell us about it, and how being a Christian makes a difference.

**Carl:** We need to be salt and light **where we are**; to **go to** the community and serve, to show concern for our neighbours and care about each other's security. The LRCPF has seven 'Block Groups'. Within and between groups we stay in communication by radio and e-mail lists. Most of us are affiliated to security companies and we have a good working relationship with the SAP, but personal ownership of patrols is effective, because we have a vested interest in our area. We take shifts - about once in three weeks, driving in pairs. Pastor Charles is a

patroller. If, one day, you think he looks a bit tired, it could be because he did a 01:00-03:00 shift! Our role is protection, to show a presence on the streets, to drive and observe, to query loiterers. We are not vigilantes.

**Dorothy:** Prayer is vital. At the general community meeting, we launched a monthly prayer meeting. Early this year I was really concerned about how the church should react to crime. An elderly relative, who'd been through the Bush War in Zim, advised 'We must put time aside and be serious about praying. He reminded me: "*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray... (2 Chr. 7:14)*".

At the church camp, Pastor Charles and I talked about the idea of prayer gatherings as a **community venture**, and a further confirmation was the article by Noel Durrheim (L@C, May 07) where he called us to prayer against crime. We must behave responsibly; God has given us minds and abilities to use. But our faith is in God, not in our abilities and the patrols on their own. There are people praying regularly for the patrol members' safety, as well as against crime as such.

**Carl:** There are a number of Christians involved in our area. We are sensitive to each particular Block Group, but many of our meetings are started with prayer. Crime stats show that crime in Lynnwood Ridge has decreased drastically - down to a third of what it was. We are grateful to God and to a spirited community, where neighbours have got to know each other, to be alert, and watch out for each other. However, in Lynnwood Manor, over the Moreleta Spruit, there have been recent tragic incidents and calls for help. This has led to stress, increased radio chatter due to renewed caution in our own streets, extra patrols, and so on. We are now helping the Lynnwood Manor community to start their own ventures.

**L@C:** Children in the community are aware of what's going on. How do you feel about this, Carl and Dorothy?



**Dorothy:** This is not an easy one. Our children are small, but I am concerned. The situation has been intense. I would not want it to be long term.

**L@C:** We hear you've planned a Community Christmas Carol Service?

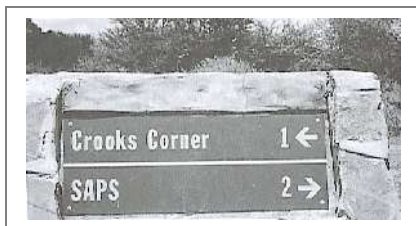
**Dorothy:** Yes, this is exciting! It was Adrian's idea, and I thought how wonderful it would be to end a hard year on a high note. We want ***Carols in the Forest*** to be a witness.

**Adrian:** It's important for our community to get together before God to thank him for protection, to praise him with music and give him glory. We'll be in a special place with amazing atmosphere: our own community pine forest in Cedar Street.

**L@C:** Your community is quite diverse...

**Adrian:** Yes, we hope different cultures will be there. Children will do Bible readings in Afrikaans and English. The carols will be sung against a backdrop of a 1928 Ford, and accompanied by a 1914 pump organ, as well as a variety of instruments played by community musicians. We're busy making coloured lanterns to hang in the trees – see the photograph at the beginning of this article.

**L@C:** As Christians, we are to be salt and light and to glorify God in all aspects of life. Community-involvement is one way.



*photo: J Kriek, KNP*

*(We are hoping to make SALT and LIGHT a regular feature of Life at Central)*

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” *Mat 5:16*

# Missions Update

## - Our Missionaries -

**Pieter & Lize Labuschagne**

SIM Mauritius



Pieter and Lize began their ministry in Mauritius in February 1999. They spent their first term leading and building up the Mauritian Bible Training Institute in Curepipe, handing over the Institute to a Mauritian principal and local lecturers before returning to South Africa for their first furlough in December 2002.

During their second term from 2004-July 2007 they focused on strengthening one of the local churches, the Rose-Belle Evangelical Church. In its 25-year history the church had always depended on foreign pastors to lead it. So, besides preaching on Sundays, Pieter began to train prospective elders. He also encouraged the church members to build a much needed hall, most of the work being done by the men with funds given by the members.

Lize ministered to the ladies by leading Bible studies and organizing retreats to address special needs. She also helped to develop a new Sunday School curriculum and learned to speak Creole to the children within three months.

The visit of a South African Evangelism Explosion team provided church members with excellent training in personal evangelism which led to the planting of a branch in Mahebourg and a fruitful outreach to the Island of Rodrigues in 2006.

They have two children, Marlize (9) and Peter-John who was born just after their first arrival in Mauritius on 3 April 1999. After attending nursery school in Mauritius, both children are being home-schooled by Lize.

The Labuschagnes are back in South Africa on furlough since July 2007, Peter being on study leave until October. They are looking to the Lord as to the type of ministry He

is leading them to when returning to Mauritius in the second half of 2008.

### **Andrew & Ronel Murray**

Christian Youth Outreach, Magogong



Working with CYO which is supported by five churches of three denominations in the area, Andrew and Ronel are evangelizing and discipling the youth Taung, Pampierstad and Magogong (Northern Cape) through Bible Clubs and Life Skills Training in schools, Camps for primary and high school pupils, and Holiday Outreaches.

They are assisted by volunteers, coming from supporting churches as well as being converts of earlier camps, and visiting teams from i.a. Pretoria and the USA. Lyndee who, since 2006, has been involved especially in the training of Life Skills Teams, and Paul who arrived in August 2007, are so-called journeymen from the Southern Baptist Missionary Society, doing two-year stints as short-term missionaries.

There are 180 schools in an 80 km radius around Magogong of which 40 have been reached so far. Andrew is also involved in regular devotions at a business in town, as well as being asked to preach in Sunday services in some of the supporting churches from time to time.

Andrew and Ronel have three children: Andy (20) at present working with a leadership training ministry in Wellington (Cape), Helen (18) matriculating this year and accepted to join the same ministry team in Wellington, and Peter (15), also at boarding school in Bloemfontein. Ronel has a BA degree in psychology and counseling and now studies for an honours degree with UNISA. Andrew is also doing some planting on the small farm where they now live, in order to complement their income.

Andrew's vision is that local Tswana churches would catch the vision of mission outreach and sending out Tswana-speaking missionaries. He meets with pastors in the area and organizes pastors' retreats with the aim of overcoming the mistrust between denominations.

### **Thelma Mitford-Barberton**

Operation Mobilization Pretoria

Thelma joined OM in September 1993 to organize short-term outreaches to countries in Southern Africa which she did for five years. This also involved herself taking teams on short-term missions to Mozambique.

At present she works with Francois Vosloo who is coordinator of ministries for the whole of Southern Africa and has to do a lot of traveling. Thelma stays in the office as anchor person, doing the bookkeeping for the teams in Mozambique, Angola and for her own office team. She also helps with travel arrangements, organizes retreats and conferences and buys supplies needed by the teams in the Southern African fields.



Whenever one of the teams needs assistance with computer problems she travels to the respective country to sort them out. From time to time she also accompanies Francois and team members on visits to these countries.

When the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of OM was celebrated in Pretoria in 2007, Thelma met a young man who was in prison in Maputo in 1995 when she was on an outreach there. He is now married with two children and ministering with SIM amongst the YAO in northern Mozambique.

Each member of an OM team needs to raise his or her own financial support. Many Christians find it difficult to see someone working in an office in Pretoria as a missionary. Therefore Thelma has some difficulty to find a sufficient number of people who are willing to support her regularly. Yet without her work many OMers in the various Southern African fields would be severely handicapped if she was not there to take care of the logistics which are a prerequisite to their being able to function effectively.

### **Lauren**

Central Asia



Lauren graduated from university as a pharmacist in 1997 and soon after, felt a particular burden for a country in Central Asia. She was able to visit the country in 2002 with a medical team, and then again in 2004 with a friend.



She then trained at the Africa School of Missions near White River for 17 months.

She left for Central Asia early in 2006 and immediately began language studies. Working with an NGO she has been involved in educational projects and children's camps. She was able to make friends with several local women, especially those wanting to learn and practice English who have formed a club that meets regularly.

She also hopes to use her training as a pharmacist to help improve the use of medicines in the country.

There are many restrictions to prevent the spread of non-Muslim faiths, and various methods are employed to hinder the work of NGOs suspected of such activities. But the spiritual and physical needs of the people are very great and believers everywhere are asked to pray that doors would remain open.

### **Hedley & Sandy Stead**

Mozambique School of the Bible



Started by Rev. Fred and Susi Buchler in 1994 in response to the request of Mozambican Christian leaders for literature in local languages, the MSB has been translating and printing Christian books from Zulu and English.

Pastor Zacarias Muiambo in Maputo began in 1997 to translate text books of the Union Bible School in Natal, written by Rev. B. Johanson in Zulu. Later on, the MSB was able to supply Zacarias with a computer and a shipping container converted into an office.

Fred Buchler and Hedley, together with Jurg van Dyk of Global Mission S.A., also frequently traveled to Mozambique to conduct seminars for local pastors, not only in Southern Mozambique, but in the North of the country. Bishop Titus Ndlovu in Beira regularly invited them and thus they saw the great need for Christian books to be translated into Lomwe and other Northern Mozambican languages.

The translated books have enabled the local pastors themselves to organize and teach seminars for Christian leaders in various places. By 2003, 53 MSB titles had been printed in Shangaan, Portuguese, Shona, English, Lomwe and Sena. Large numbers of books have been supplied to the OM ship *Doulos* and to teams from different S.A. churches on short-term missions to Mozambique.

Hedley married Sandy Mills in September 2006. They have built an office at their home and bought a suitable bakkie to continue the ministry of MSB. To date (Aug. 2007) Hedley has done 45 trips to Mozambique. His aim at present is to establish two bookbinding centers in that country.

### **Peter & Christine Vumisa**

Inserv, Pretoria



Peter graduated from Bible College in 1990 and then pastored a church in Zambia for 6 years. He married Christine in 1992. They came to S.A. in 1998 where he did a missions research course at *Inserv* and then joined *Inserv* as full-time Research Coordinator. They have three daughters, Thando (13), Thokozile (11) and Nomsa (8).

Peter does in-depth research on less-reached people groups in order to facilitate locally viable and long-term effective outreach strategies by African churches. He also trains key church leaders to gather information and helps them to develop effective church planting strategies.

In March 2006 the *Movement for African National Initiatives (MANI)* organized a conference in Nairobi with 520 leaders from 65 countries. Participants committed themselves to reach every unreached people group in Africa and involve African churches in global missions. *Inserv* was asked to help develop a regional and continental MANI database and to research 10 Southern African countries. Peter coordinates this project and is himself responsible to research 5 countries. However, the organization is hampered by insufficient funds and therefore, by a shortage of personnel and equipment.

Peter also regularly conducts training courses in research at Missions Colleges in Pretoria and Zambia, as well as helping with bi-annual training conferences of his former church and denomination in Gwembe Valley, Zambia.

The Vumisas have to raise their own support and, although being partly funded by Pretoria Central Baptist Church, are looking to the Lord to provide additional supporters who share their vision to empower the African Church.

### **Ray & Lauren Airoso**

OMS International

Ray and Lauren began working with OMS in January 2003. Lauren helped with administration while Ray was S.A. coordinator of the *Into Africa Project*, equipping

immigrants from other African countries to initiate church planting in their home countries.



In 2004 Ray took over the responsibility to oversee the ministry of church planting in Angola, resulting in 54 churches having been re-established and 90 pastors being trained by the end of 2005.

Then doors opened for Ray to help with the training of church leaders in the Comoros Islands, Tanzania and South Africa, as well as Angola, involving a lot of travelling.

After three years with OMS Ray and Lauren felt a strong calling to serve the Lord in Namibia, where they see a great need for training rural pastors. They would also have been able to continue looking after the work in Angola from there. However, it seems that this door has now closed.

Ray and Lauren have a two-year old little girl, Samantha, whom they adopted in 2005 after Lauren suffered two miscarriages. In June 2007 they were blessed with a bouncing little boy, Matteo. In anticipation of their move to Namibia they sold their house in Roodepoort and are now living temporarily in Akasia, northwest of Pretoria.

Ray has been offered several options of leadership roles within OMS, and they are looking to the Lord to lead them to the place he has prepared for them. In the meantime, Ray continues to look after the church planting ministry in Angola, travelling there as the need arises.

### **Darren van Rensburg**

Operation Mobilisation, Ecuador

In 2004, Darren spent nine months in Paraguay on the invitation of SIM. He learned Spanish and then joined a church in Caazapa and trained the worship team of the church. He also gave music lessons to non-Christians as a means of outreach and was involved in the discipling of young people. He felt a great burden for the people who mostly follow a syncretistic form of Catholicism.

After his return to S.A. God confirmed to him His call to be a full-time missionary to South America, more specifically Ecuador, one of the two countries with the lowest percentage of evangelicals in South America.

After finishing his theological studies in 2006, Darren joined OM's six-month training programme in January

2007 which included outreaches to Mozambique, Muslims and Hindus in Durban and street workers in Pretoria.

He left on 1 September 2007 for Ecuador where he will be the evangelism coordinator working alongside the local church. His tasks will include training an evangelistic team, supporting and coordinating the team's ministry, training churches to evangelise, assembling evangelistic resources and generating evangelistic projects.



#### **URGENT PRAYER ITEM** from Central Asia

The sheep of a Sheepfold here were given a letter yesterday that their pen\* must be closed for 3 months...and winter is on its way. The shepherd and some other assistants are not in the country at the moment and so it is very difficult for the sheep. Please ask that the sheep may be encouraged and keep on looking to the Chief Shepherd. Also ask the chief Shepherd for great wisdom for the shepherd and his assistants as to how to proceed!

The study of the ways of the Shepherd from Jn that I attend has really been struggling in the last few weeks.... Please ask for encouragement for the sheep and that they may not give up, but stand strong. Jn 16:33

In the last week or so the one shop where they sell good Food for sheep to chew on has also been told to close for three months! Please ask for the staff... and also that the sheep may continue chewing on the good food and be strengthened by it...and more and more sheep may find this good food!

It would seem that the wolves are focussing on local sheep at the moment ...ask that the Chief Shepherd may strengthen the sheep and they may daily draw from His power and stay close to Him and not wander off.  
Ps 23, Is 40:11, Jn 10



# Glimpses of Central Asia 2007



Beautiful Pamirs



October the cotton picking season



Country scene with Pamirs



A blue dam with mountains



Mountain heights



A cotton field





Butcher



Donkey carrying hay



Basket of bread



Asleep amongst watermelons



Taking silk off branches



Men carrying hay over rickety bridge



Village toy car



Felt sample



Potato fried cakes



## When I Grow Up I Want to Be...

(A Look at Effecting Pro-Life Change in a Sometimes Hostile World)



**By Rev. Robert Fleischmann, National Director, Christian Life Resources**

**Source:** *Clearly Caring Magazine*, July/Aug 2007, Vol. 27, No. 4

With "Pomp and Circumstance" still echoing in my ears, the latest wave of graduations brought to mind a recent conversation. A young man graduated at the head of his class. His parents told me he was torn between pursuing a career in journalism or medicine.

The parents were not pleased with either choice. Their concern was the liberal nature of both professions. Having long-held strong, conservative values they feared these liberal and controversial professions might challenge and compromise his values.

We want things better in this world. Yet, so often we want to effect change by proxy. We want someone else to enter politics for us, to be the conservative voice in a liberal media, and to be the medical professional in an arena full of life and death controversies.

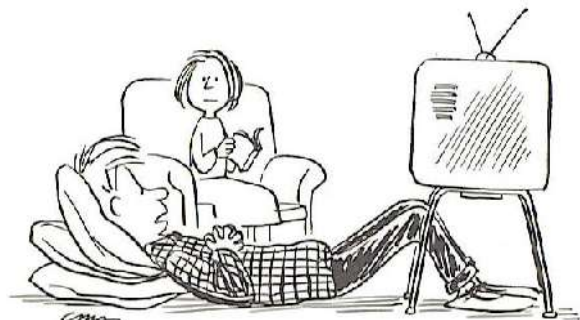
By default we want the tranquillity of anonymity. There is something comforting about earning our pay check, going home, and not having to worry about the job until tomorrow. We like the idea of good money for honest work, without a lot of complications and controversy.

The sad reality is that in an increasingly-godless world, children of God must be heard, must be seen, and must be active. To Timothy, who faced the prospect of a defecting congregation to false doctrine, and the very real possibility of persecution, the

Apostle Paul said, *"Keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry"* (2 Timothy 4:5).

Perseverance is one of a Christian's most commendable qualities. It means speaking up when others want you to shut up (Proverbs 31:8). It means helping when others would walk past (Luke 10:30ff). It means risking your reputation for the sake of doing what is right (Hebrews 10:32ff). It means risking your life when others would run and hide (Psalm 23:4). It means pursuing a profession full of problems in order to be a beacon of hope and truth (Philippians 2:14-16).

You cannot effect change and witness to the truth by leaving it to others. Sometimes the battle involves a strong faith and deep resolve to reflect God's will when it is most challenging.



"I used to be able to memorize scripture, but you know how it is as you get older. . . . Your mind just doesn't work as well!"

A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

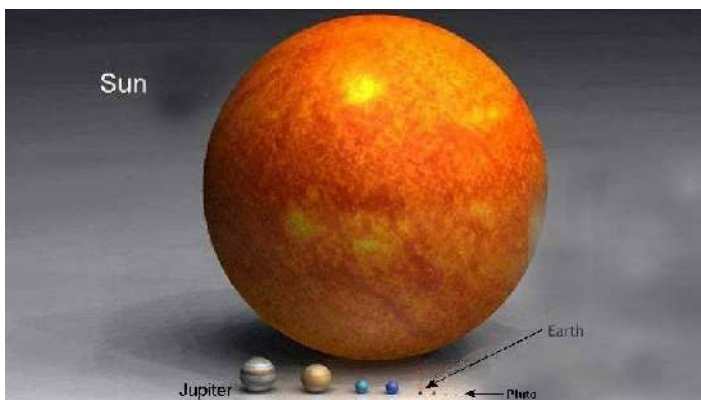
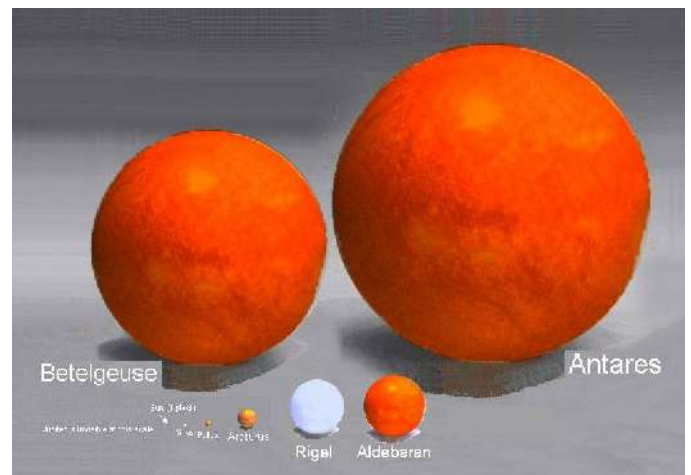
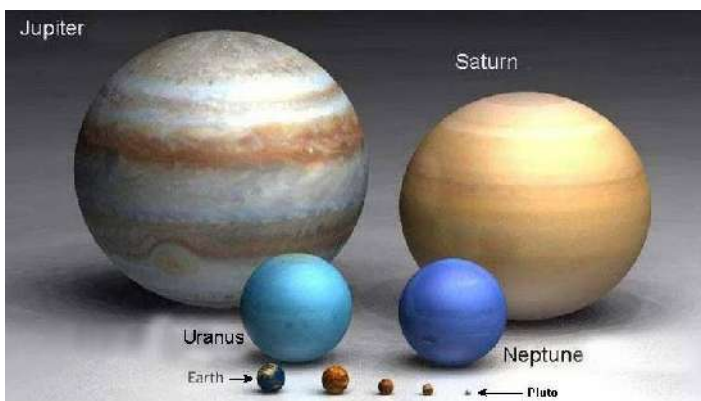
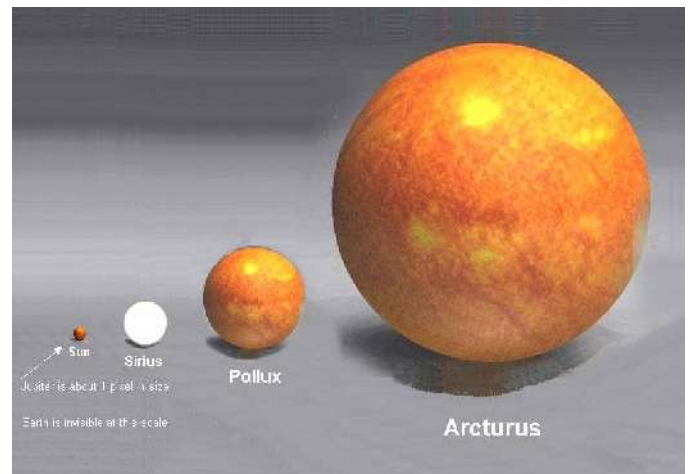
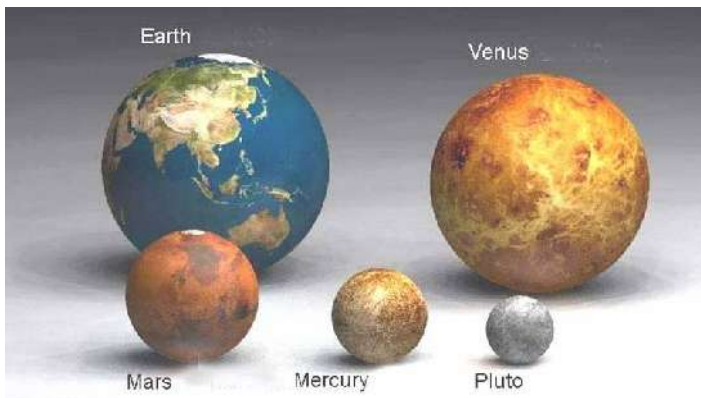
When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, "Genesis3:10."

Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked."



# THINK BIG!



**It's a big, big universe....**

**"And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good." 1 Gen 1:17-18**

**(Antares is the 15th brightest star in the sky. It is more than 1000 light years away. )**



**The heavens declare the glory of God!**



# Kids' PRAYERS

(They work for grown-ups too!)



*How Great and Wonderful you are!*

Thank you, LORD, for another day.

Thank you for the sun and the deep blue sky.

Thank you for the cool Autumn air.

Thank you for eggs and bacon,  
and toast with cinnamon.

Help me to remember  
that all good things come from you,  
And help me always to be thankful.

Dear Lord,  
Help me to be good today.  
Forgive me for the times I did what I wanted to do,  
instead of what you wanted me to do.

Today is a new day,  
and I can start brand new  
because you have forgiven me.

Help me to be a blessing today.  
Use me to bring happiness to those you love.

Dear Lord, your love  
is better than anything else in the world.  
And you love me.  
Help me always to remember that.

Thank you, LORD!



Paul Dallgas-Frey

<http://www.essex1.com/people/paul/prayer.html>

Psalm 37  
(a little bit)

God will always take care of you!

So believe in him,  
do what is right and good,  
and enjoy all that he has given you.

Be happy in knowing God,  
and your heart will be full.

Follow God,  
do your best to please him,  
and he will bless you in everything you do.

He will make your goodness  
shine like the noonday sun.

Take some time each day to be with God.  
Be still and quiet.  
Wait for God,  
and he will come to you!

## HAPPY CLUTTER

**O**n Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2007 in the late afternoon, John and I together with our son-in-law, Geoff Bailie, visited Dr Parnell. Geoff wanted to meet Dr Parnell, discuss with him issues related to church leadership and if possible borrow or buy some of his books. Geoff is doing part time studies with Baptist Theological College with the intention of becoming a Baptist Union Pastor.

We spent a happy hour together, enjoyed a lovely cup of tea and biscuits and listened as Dr Parnell expounded the essence of church leadership namely that of servanthood as opposed to replicating leadership in the marketplace. The latter is embossed with guilt edged excellence. Servanthood is what we see in Jesus, especially as he washed the disciples' feet. Dr Parnell gave Geoff books to keep and others he loaned to him with strict instructions to bring them back please, because he did not have any duplicates. We prayed together and parted. There was something unforgettable about that hour spent together with a man who surely had become an elder statesman in the BU.

There were lasting impressions of Dr Parnell's surroundings that afternoon that have become indelibly etched on my memory. In his study his computer was switched on and no doubt he had been writing his beloved historical novel with material gleaned from the internet. In the dining room the whole table was covered with a 1500 piece jigsaw puzzle to which he encouraged his visitors to add a piece. At the far end of the sitting room his huge armchair was drawn up to within touching distance of an outsize TV screen. Out on the porch he had all his equipment for painting. In the garden he had possibly, only that morning, planted out bright yellow pansies without gathering up the bits and pieces of the polystyrene trays in which he had brought them from the nursery. The wind had scattered the pieces all over the small garden so that the white patches added to colour co-ordinates.

Dr Parnell's flat was his personal art gallery. The little pantry in the unit had shelves neatly stacked with copies of books he had written. In the Baptist Union Archives there are approximately 30 books authored by him. The books we borrowed that memorable afternoon have been returned – to an empty flat!

As he grew older his life spoke to me of someone who was more than ready to meet his Lord. However, in the meantime there was plenty to do in fulfilment of the Lord's injunction to *occupy 'till I come*.

Val Nowlan  
8<sup>th</sup> Sept 07



'ADD LIFE TO YOUR YEARS'  
By Ted W Engstrom with Joy P Gage

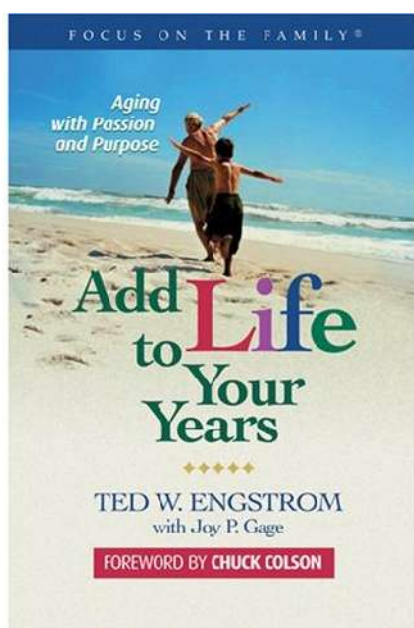
**T**he sub-title of this book published by Focus on the Family is *Aging with Passion and Purpose*.

One reason why the book was written was because the author observed that so many retirees had lost their passion for life. He and his wife live in a retirement village where many of the residents simply sit around waiting for their meals and teas. In this book he has gathered stories from numerous people who are not sitting around in their retirement. Their stories prove that for many a whole new life has unfolded after 60.

The heart of what Ted Engstrom says in this book is contained in the following quotes – *Do what you do best, and do it for a worthy cause; The worst thing in the world that a person can do physically, mentally or spiritually is to start focusing internally; When you retire you have to have something to do.*

Having just read this book I suggest you go out and buy yourself a copy as a starting point to retirement!!

Val Nowlan  
12<sup>th</sup> September 2007



## RESOURCE CENTRE New Books

Dr Gregory R Frizzell was the speaker at the ASSEMBLY and donated some of his books to each of the delegates:

- **How to develop a powerful prayer life**
- **Biblical patterns for powerful church prayer meetings**
- **Returning to Holiness**
- **Releasing the revival flood**

And also a booklet by B Kluth:

- **40 day spiritual journey to a more generous life**  
.....making generosity workable and practical...  
..

### OTHER DONATIONS:

LOTZ, A G – **I saw the Lord**  
SPURGEON, C H - **Words of cheer**  
SPURGEON, C H - **Words of Wisdom**  
ELSDON-DEW, M – **God who changes lives**  
ADENEY, D H – **China, the Church's long march**  
PETERSEN, E R – **For women only**

### CHRISTIAN NOVELS:

KINGSBURY, K – **Return**  
KINGSBURY, K – **Halfway to forever**  
WICK, L – **Promise me tomorrow**  
WICK, L – **To know her by name**  
COPELAND, L – **Roses will bloom again**



### LETTER TO CENTRAL

It is has been five years since Cedric first became ill. He has had a number of operations and plenty of treatment and is doing very well. Our thanks to the church family, the Bible study groups, friends and family for your prayers, love and concern throughout this time. We acknowledge that our daily strength is God's grace and goodness and would appreciate continued prayer. Thank you and God bless you all

*Cedric and Margaret*





A  
YOUNG  
woman  
SHALL  
BEAR  
A  
Child

*He shall be called Immanuel,*  
GOD WITH US.

*Before the world began  
it was God's plan  
to send to earth a savior*



Whether therefore you eat, or drink,  
or whatsoever you do,  
do all to the glory of God.

*1Co 10:31*