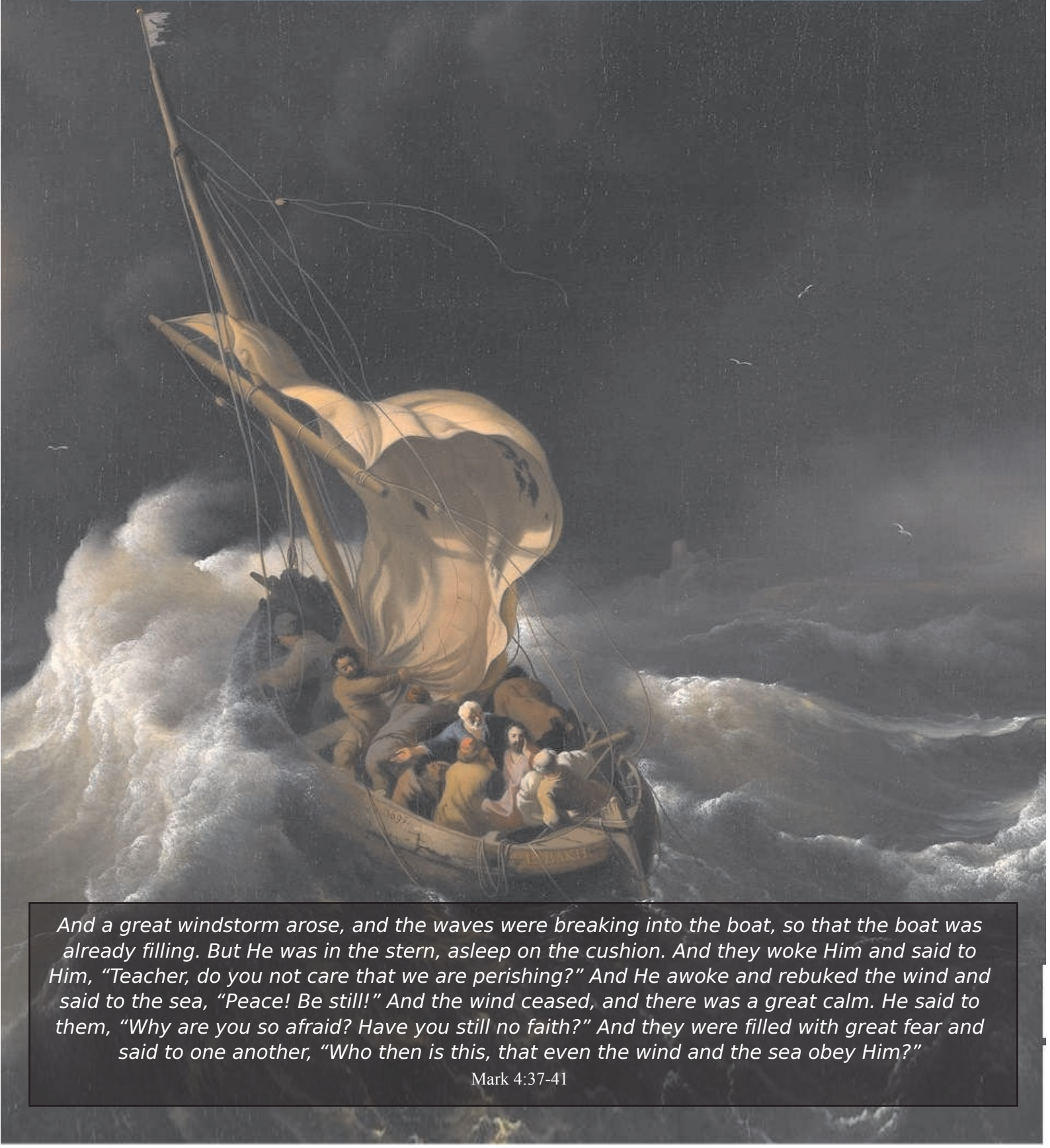


October 2011

life at CENTRAL

Central Baptist Church, Pretoria

life@central.org.za



And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" And He awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

Mark 4:37-41



PASTOR'S CORNER

Senior Pastor: Charles de Kiewit



Dear Friends

These past months have really disrupted my routine in pastoral responsibilities and participation in the life of the church at Central. The visit to the Labuschagnes in Mauritius and then the visit to the USA for Bethesda Outreach ministries (with some leave to see some family) have, nevertheless, been of great value.

The week that Carol and I spent with Pieter and Lise was a real eye-opener, not only seeing the nature of their ministry amongst the diverse people of Mauritius, but also getting to know them as a family. Speaking at the 'pastor book set' conference was a privilege. Eighty pastors received a set of good theological books, worth approximately R7000, at the end of the conference. We were exposed to a local wedding, a Hindu festival, many of the fabricated 'gods', a pastoral visit to the Duffs (Central members) and finally a bit of snorkeling in the beautiful Blue Bay.



Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee
by Ludolf Bakhuizen, 1695

Central can feel very proud to have the Labuschagnes as missionaries sent out from us.

The time in the USA with the Kingons and Mixons – focusing on Bethesda board meetings and exposure to supporting churches – was also helpful and inspiring. Bethesda celebrated 10 years of ministry in South Africa amongst AIDs-affected orphans in the Hamanskraal area. It has been a time of networking, learning and relationship building that I trust will be of value in the ongoing partnership.

We have, at the same time, had the anticipation of starting our new work in the East. The building is almost done, with some finalisation of paperwork with the Tshwane authorities still outstanding. We are hoping that this work will soon get off the ground.

It will be good to be back into a normal routine of preaching and pastoring. We continue to trust God for His hand of blessing on us all. May our Lord Jesus be glorified as we continue to serve Him in these days ahead.

Charles

LIFE at CENTRAL MAGAZINE

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

Past editions (2006 to 2010) are also available.

Editors:
Kim Gush, Wambui Gititu and Daniel Salzwedel

life [at] central.org.za.

CARING MINISTRY

by Pastor Eric Robbins



BIG PICTURE THINKING

Do you know what the English word “parochial” means? According to the Oxford dictionary it is an adjective that describes “something that is confined to a narrow area”. It comes from the word “parish” implying a limited local situation. Most commonly it is a word used to describe the way we think. In other words “parochial thinking” can also be called “narrow mindedness”.

It is good for us to be scripturally “narrow minded” in so far as we are guided in all our thinking by the Bible. But it does not please God when we cannot see beyond the tip of our own noses. As Christians we must always keep the big picture in mind – the big picture of who God is and what He is doing beyond our immediate situation. This prevents us feeling sorry for ourselves, and helps us to become upward looking and outward facing Christians. May God keep us from parochial Christianity.

Eugene van Heerden, Ros, and I have recently returned from our National Baptist Union Assembly. About 450 delegates attended, representing over 200 churches from different cultures around South Africa. We met together in Port Elizabeth for four days of Biblical preaching, fellowship, praise, worship and prayer. We heard reports from missionaries sent by our BU churches far and wide. It was a wonderful time and a great reminder of all that God is doing through Baptists from South Africa.

For the sake of your own spiritual growth and stability, I want to encourage you to take an interest in what God is doing “out there”. You don’t have to travel to do this. There are many different missions projects from our church in which you could take an interest. Use your internet connection and e-mail. Don’t be a “pea sized” Christian; become a “global” Christian.

Eric Robbins



***For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;***

Psalm 103:11

Never too young

NEVER TOO YOUNG.....

MALAWI OUTREACH (As experienced by Riani – 9 years – Lana’s granddaughter)

(A. D. R. Church had an outreach to Malawi consisting of 23 people, six 4x4 vehicles with huge trailers, loaded with donations from Church members, esp. clothes and stationary for the schools. They also had to take all food & water, all diesel, all camping equipment, cooking utensils, a generator for the Jesus film and even a welding machine & tools for maintenance to be done! Bibles were picked up in Lilongwe. Riani, was the youngest member of the group. They went to minister, but were also ministered to, and the four primary school kids had an experience that they will never forget!)

MULI BWANJI! (Greetings)

Wow, we were going to Malawi! Didn’t really know where that was but I knew it was far. We had to get passports and a lot of injections – not so good! I also had to get long skirts to wear – I had none! Weeks before the time we sorted clothes and school things that were donated by the Church people. We also made bangles with 6 different coloured beads – the “Bible without words”.

We travelled VERY, VERY far and went through border posts where the people were not very friendly – all they do is stamp, stamp, stamp. One day we travelled nearly 20 hours! We slept in a Church hall in Harare. Harare is in Zimbabwe and Zim is....

Our camp toilet was fixed to the back of our trailer, but it fell off during the trip, so now it was “bushes”!

At the Nkhoma mission station we set up camp and pitched our tents – luckily there were ablution blocks. Water had to be pumped from a well. We met the missionaries and their four boys – on holiday from school. There were also other people working there – Americans & Hollanders.

My mother and other teachers left us for a few days to go to Malingunde. They helped a lady to set up several nursery schools and took all the books, pens, paper, chalk, crayons, slates, and other school things with them. They also visited a hospital, a school for blind children, a primary school and a women’s college. They had lunch with a chief and met with other important people.

My sister (12 years) was in the missions team. They visited people in their huts, and with the help of interpreters told stories and explained the colourful bandanas with the salvation message, showed the Jesus film, and distributed Bibles. Some days they walked very far, but they also travelled and one night they only came back to the camp at 10!

I stayed in the camp with my dad and the team who fixed up stuff - we hammered down part of a wall in the guest house and put in a door and painted the room. We also did a lot of the cooking. I also played with the children of the missionaries and had a good time!

Some of the men also did some team building with a group of bigger boys. They built a thing to abseil with from a high rock. The boys were quite scared. I of course, also wanted to abseil but weighed too little so one of the men went with me! WOW! My dad cooked a big pot of pasta for the group, but the boys first had to ask what it was!

All the dogs in Malawi look more or less the same. Breed = dog! We did not see wild

Never too young [cont.]

animals but lots of goats and all the carts were drawn by cattle. People eat LOTS of peanuts. The woman work in the fields and some men do sewing. They sew things with colourful material – skirts and whatever the customer wants. At the market, one could buy peanuts, fruit, sugar cane, bracelets, and material.

When we left we spent 2 days at Fat Monkeys at Lake Malawi – that was GOOD. We could swim and snorkel with fishes all around – just like in an aquarium! My mom also spent her last kwachas and I traded my skirts for a wooden car!

What a wonderful experience that I will never forget!

The Importance of Missions.

*John Piper:-
(William) Carey and thousands like him have been moved by the vision of a great and triumphant God. That vision must come first. Savoring it in worship precedes spreading it in missions.
All of history is moving towards one great goal, the white-hot worship of God and his Son among all the peoples of the earth.
Missions is not that goal. It is the means.
And for that reason it is the second greatest human activity in the world.*

Quoted from:- "Let the Nations be Glad." Page 15.



Taken from websites of: Operation World, SIM:

Challenge for Prayer

Malawi faces serious challenges in the future, such as the combination of poverty, high population growth and increasing pressure on agricultural land.

- Pray for leaders in Malawi, most of whom are church members, to act with wisdom, humility and long-term planning on biblical principles.

People Groups

There are many people groups in Malawi, including the Yao (Muslim), Ngonde, Ngoni, Sena, Lomwe, Chewa, Nyanja, Tumbuka, and Tonga.

The National Church

No official state church is named in Malawi. However, several groups have strong national affiliations. The largest church groupings in Malawi are the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), Seventh Day Adventists, Anglican and Roman Catholic. There are also a number of significant evangelical denominations such as the Evangelical Church of Malawi, Zambezi Evangelical Church and Africa Evangelical Church.



WOMEN'S VALUE

M O

V I N
by Lana Pelser, October 2011

G...



No, I am not talking about travelling from here to there, or perpetual motion, or a sad experience, but about packing all your belongings to go and stay elsewhere! (Poor Israelites – Numbers 33 records their journey from place to place – what an ordeal!)

As a child, and during school years, I never moved, and always stayed in Pretoria. Home was a secure and known haven. Later on in life I moved to Stanger (Natal), Utrecht (Natal), Cullinan, Kroonstad and Middelburg (Cape) - all these being smaller towns - quite different from living in a big city.

Disaster then struck!! We packed every teaspoon ourselves; marked boxes and crates carefully, planned what goes where, and sorted out unnecessary things. Then the removal van had an accident! Somewhere in the Free State it rolled on its side with all our worldly possessions minced together! Potted plants demolished lounge furniture, crates and boxed spilled their contents all over the road, some onlookers even stole some of our valuables! To be dependant on some borrowed furniture to start your new life in a new place is no fun, but by the grace of God we coped!

Still later I moved back to Pretoria to more familiar areas - from Murrayfield, Willows, Brummeria and again the Willows – going “bigger” or “smaller” as new needs arose. Someone remarked that I moved all around my post box in Lynnwood!

At the moment I am packing again for quite an emotional move – to a retirement centre! Wow, have I reached that age already? Again the big question – what to leave behind? Do I really need my school mementos? Do I really need albums full of photos from long past? Do I really need so much crockery for the kitchen? Do I need anything belonging to my adult children? – they can surely keep or discard their own stuff! Do I really need to stay near my post box?!

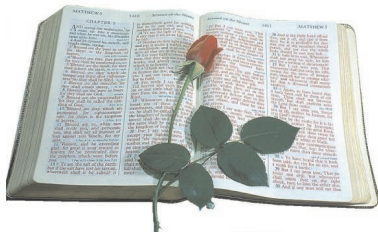
And then, what about the final move one day? Then I would like to pack love, good memories, friendly smiles, goodness, and joyous moments. I would also like to leave behind pain and sin!

As always one can just turn to the Bible for direction:

"Lay not upon for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" Matthew 6:19-21

And comfort:

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" John 14:1-3



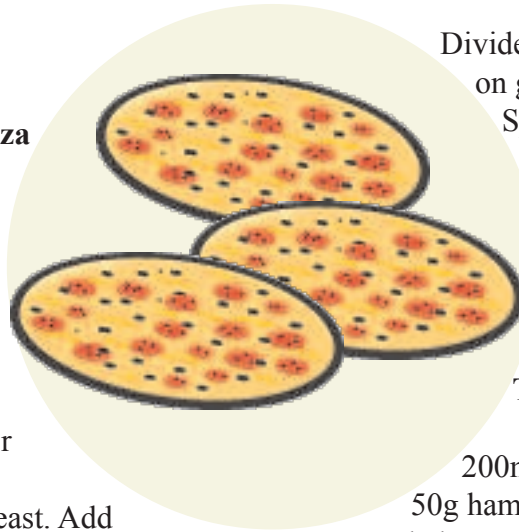
WOMEN'S VALUE

PIZZA!

Easy yeast dough pizza

500g flour
5ml salt
5ml sugar
1x10g sachet instant yeast
30ml oil
300ml lukewarm water

Combine flour, salt, yeast. Add oil and enough lukewarm water to make a soft dough. Sprinkle a little flour onto a working surface and knead until smooth and elastic. Leave in a warm place to rise until double in size.



Divide in 4, roll each into a circle, and place on greased baking trays.

Spread each with pasta sauce and topping ingredients (below)

Set aside for about 30 min and allow to rise until dough becomes puffy.

Bake at 200 degrees for about 15 minutes or until done.

Topping:

200ml tomato pasta sauce
50g ham, cut into strips
2 baby marrows, grated
8 button mushrooms, sliced
(Or other toppings of own choice)
500ml mozzarella cheese, grated

Unattached or Just Shacking Up with the Church?

by Wambui Gititu

I recently came across an interesting internet article that described a Christian without formal membership in a local church as unattached. Our very own Pastor Eric once described it as shacking up with the church much to my amusement. An unattached believer sees him/herself as a member of the invisible church of Christ but not of any local church per se. From articles read, people take the issue of church membership lightly.

According to Pastor Eric, “our contemporary, post-modern context is characterized by low loyalty to organizations or causes, resistance to structure and

authority, and also greater openness to change. This means that people today tend away from the kind of commitment and loyalty that being a church member requires”. If becoming a member of a local church is not a priority, one can attend the same church for years without even considering taking up formal membership.

What is church membership, and is it important anyway? Church membership can be defined as ‘formally committing oneself to an identifiable local body of believers’. This definition found in an internet article further explains that church membership brings a believer under the authority of God-given leaders, hence allowing the member to submit as is required in the bible.

Even though there is no command

to join church membership, there are verses that support belonging to a local church, just read the book of Acts. An article that I consulted cited Hebrews 13:17 where Christians are asked to obey and submit to church leaders. Another verse is 1Peter 5:1-2, where elders have the responsibility of shepherding the flock and providing spiritual oversight to members. It would therefore seem that belonging to a congregation of believers is important in God’s word.

Apart from being biblical, there are other reasons which make formal church membership important. Pastor Eric sees being a member of a local church as a way of giving an individual the opportunity to grow, “it introduces you to the leadership of the church, its workings, and helps build strong relationships which in turn will provide a platform for greater growth and involvement”. Church membership

therefore provides an environment to interdependently serve one another.

Another importance is that “it is a bit like being part of a body which grows as the body grows and not just a prosthesis that gets taken on and off. Membership signifies commitment, permanence and relationship” says Pastor Eric. A friend noted that being a member of a church, “has ‘mob’ (lots) benefits, when you are going through the various seasons of life such as marriage, death and child birth the church leadership is there with you. Some churches will not even wed you if you are not a member”.

Also, being a member of a church gives one the opportunity to be

involved in charting the direction the church takes. “Church membership comes with privileges and obligations, you will have the privilege of being able to participate in the decision making processes of the church.

Leadership roles in the church are also reserved for those who have officially committed to membership. Of course there are also obligations like giving, praying and getting involved in ministry” notes Pastor Eric.

Yet there are those who choose to remain unattached for reasons such as fear of being hurt, not wanting to submit to church authority, not prioritising it, or lack of understanding of the importance of formal church membership. It is indeed true that many have been hurt in the church, a

fact that Pastor Eric concedes, but he is quick to add that God didn’t intend it that way saying that “pain is often caused by foolishness, unkindness and ungodliness amongst God's people”.

Being a member of a local church not only provides spiritual oversight and accountability but there is a beautiful picture of mutual edification. A believer commits his or her life to a particular church and uses the talents he or she has to serve, while in turn allowing others to serve him or her. As Pastor Eric puts it, it is all about commitment and belonging. So, if you are not a member of Central, what’s it gonna be, unattached or committed?



What it takes to become a formally committed Centralite:

“It starts with a six month period of mentoring during which time one of the elders gets to know you, and you get to know the church. The aim of this is to try and develop a more relationally linked membership. This is followed by a New Members Tea one Sunday afternoon where we have a presentation on the church and talk about what it means to become a member. If you still feel you want to join after that, then the paper

work is done. Your application must be approved by the leadership of the church and there are three criteria that must be in place in order to be received into membership. The first and most important is that you are a born-again believer in Jesus Christ. Believers baptism and a willingness to commit to the church are the other two pre-requisites”

- Pastor Eric.

The End Times

by Joseph Bolandza Epombo-Mwenge

1. Introduction

After having previously spoken of a new commandment, and being born again, I would like to speak today on another theme, which is entitled “The end times”. Not long ago, one of my colleagues returned from a trip to France and related an interesting story to me, which he had experienced there. He told me that he wanted to evangelise to a French girl

of 12 years old, and he asked her if she knew Jesus Christ. The young girl replied by asking: “Who is Jesus? Where does he stay and why do you speak to me about him?” Some months ago, I read a notice on a wall in Van der Walt Street, which said the following: “Prophet Chuma from Zimbabwe - all problems resolved. Cell: 0744531699”. On the other hand, there has been the revolutionary movement which commenced in Northern Africa, the earthquake in Japan, and the death of Bin Laden at the hands of the American naval forces. All these events have resulted in many people

believing that we are moving towards the end of the world. However, these events are precisely what the Bible predicted would take place before the second coming of Christ. In this article, I will first look at some interpretations, and then say something about what we as Christians should do. I will end this article with a conclusion.

2. Some interpretations

In the Bible, there are verses that refer to the nearness of the end. For example, in the Book of Revelations, it is written: “I am coming soon”

(Rev 22:7). Similarly, in the Book of Peter, it is said that “The end of all things is near” (1Pe 4:7). However, it is now two thousand years since Jesus told John “I am coming soon”. Because of this, attempts have been made to determine which event or sign would announce the approach of the end. Many theories were proposed in an attempt to explain exactly what would happen at this crucial time. One of these theories is the Jewish apocalyptic thought, with the idea of two ages: a present evil age which is dominated by the forces of evil, and a future new age, in which, by the intervention of God, people can be redeemed and all persecutions can be stopped¹. In terms of this thought, the early Christians strongly believed that Jesus was going to return soon, during the time of their generation, in order to consummate the kingdom of God. In this regard, the return of Christ is viewed by some as occurring within a certain time period. The Jehovah’s Witnesses claimed that Christ came back secretly in 1874². Some also claimed that World War II was the end times, and still others believed that the return of Christ would occur within a generation of 1948, with the creation of a Jewish state. Others, however, maintained that the second coming of Christ only occurs when a believer dies³.

The above interpretations make it clear that all this seems to be inadequate and that Christ’s return is still to be delayed. The reason for this is that God’s plan is unknown to man. In addition, we must also remember that in God’s plan, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years is like one day (2Pe 3:8), and that no one knows what the date and time of Christ’s return will be, as suggested by the following biblical verses: “No one knows about the day” (Matt 24:36), “It is not for you to know” (Act 1:7), “About times and dates you do not need” (1Thess 5:1-2).

However, the Bible makes it clear that Christ will definitely return, and that he will be visible to all (Acts 1:11b). How? The apostle Paul describes how the return of Christ will happen. Firstly, it will involve resurrection from the dead of those who have died in Christ. Secondly, there will be the transformation of those who are living at the time of this event, and thirdly, the coming together of both groups in the presence of the Lord (1Thess 4: 16-17). Thus, after his return, Christ will assume his supreme power and will defeat the great adversary of God, Satan, and all those who are associated with him. Thereafter, the Kingdom of God will be established on earth. This will be the thousand-year reign of Christ, together with the saints, before the end of all human history (Rev 20).

3. What should Christians do?

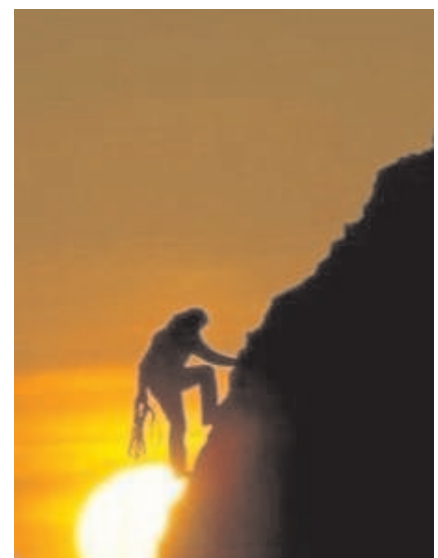
Christians need to live their lives as if they are living in the last days, which they are, have been and will continue to until the Lord’s return. As Peter writes, “It is the eminency of Christ’s coming that keeps believers ever alert, energetic, ambitious to be found of Him to praise and honour and glory at His coming” (1Pe 1:7). Christians must also remain faithful, even though many are experiencing the effect of evil in the form of unjust persecution. Their faith is being tried by the fire, and they need to be faithful in their involvement in the work of the Lord until the end. Regarding the question as to why the wicked prosper and the righteous suffer, the final judgement of God will balance out the inequalities of the present life (Hab 1: 2-4). The wicked will, of course, be resurrected, but only for judgement, and then cast into the lake of fire (Rev 20: 11-15), while those who remain faithful (over-comers) will be honoured with the glory of the new heaven and earth.

4. Conclusion

The point that needs to be emphasised here is that current events are signs of the time, but not of the end. Wars, chaotic world conditions, famine, dislocation and distress are conditions of humanity - they have been and will always be present until the second coming of Christ. This means that they are the means by which the Antichrist achieves world domination. However, if there was a commencement of the present order, there is also a movement in God’s plan towards the consummation of all things (1Cor 15:24, 28). The date and time of Christ’s return is unknown to us, but Christians must be prepared for its approach. Therefore, divine judgment will come and every evil person and aspect of this world will be completely destroyed. God is also a God of love - He sent his son to the world to offer salvation, but those who refuse this offer of God’s love must endure the wrath of God’s judgement, while He will reward those who follow His ways.

References

1. James M. Efrd. End-times: Rapture, Antichrist, Millennium: what the Bible says (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1986), 19.
2. Herman A. Hoyt. The End Times (Winona Lake: BMH Books, 1995), 51.
3. Herman, The End Times, 54.



"Perseverance"

Central's Campus in the East

Q. How has the construction work been progressing?
A. Very well, as you can see!

Thanks to Mark Kingon for posting these photos



The entranceway



New tiling and paintwork



Approach path taking shape



Still some work to be done

"For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favour of taking part in the relief of the saints\ and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us." - 2 Corinthians 8:3-5

Better is one day in your house...

by Lia van de Glint

Better is one day in Your house...

"Hi, I'm Lia. I'm a Dutch exchange student. I study medicine and I'm doing my clinical rotation for surgery at Steve Biko Hospital"

I think I have introduced myself with the above standing words for a thousand times the last months. And it is a good summary to tell who I am and why I came to South Africa. On April 30th my South African adventure began when I got on a plane from Schiphol to Johannesburg. In my first week in Pretoria, I went to the swimming pool and while driving on Schoeman street, I noticed the sign of Central Baptist Church. So I decided that would be the church I would be visiting during my stay in Pretoria. Maybe it was just a coincidence, but I think God wanted to give me a little hand in feeling at home in South Africa.

I was used to go to church every Sunday in the Netherlands, but I think I have never felt so eager to go to church as the weeks I spent in Pretoria. Maybe you know the song "Better is one day". The chorus of the song says: "Better is one day in your courts, better is one day in your house, better is one day in your courts, than a thousand elsewhere" (Psalm 84)

And you know, I found out that it is actually true. I came to South Africa; worked in the hospital for eight weeks; saw a lot of suffering and pain there; I went to Drakensbergen; stood face to face with wild giraffes and elephants in the Kruger Park; danced at the Bushfire Festival in Swasiland; was impressed by the poverty and joy of the people in Lesotho; went to a township; learned a lot about South Africa's history at the Apartheid museum and the Voortrekker monument; went mountainbiking in Groenkloof; saw the amazing views at Cape of Good Hope; was so many times impressed by the beauty of God's creation; and still I value the

Sunday mornings in church and the bible study night on Wednesdays as the best.

And why? Because when I'm at God's place, meeting brothers and sisters in Christ, then I'm home. And being an exchange student 10.000 km from home, feeling at home is a very precious thing.

July 3th was my last Sunday in Pretoria and when I was in church I said goodbye to some of the people I met. Unfortunately, I did not have a chance to say goodbye to everyone I met. By this short message I want to say thank you and goodbye to the other people I met. Some of your names I have forgotten already, but thank you for being so kind so me, for making me feel welcome, for being interested in just a Dutch student.

I ask the Lord to bless Central Baptist Church to be a community where people feel at home and to be a community reaching out with His love to the people in Pretoria.

Lia van de Glint



***For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.***

Psalm 84:10

Turning waste into wonder in Mauritius

by Lize Labuschagne

Pieter's mom (Annette) visited us for a few weeks earlier this year. Being a regular visitor to Mauritius, she has already made several friends here on the island.

This time she offered to assist us in hosting four fun, instructive afternoons of fellowship and craft for ladies all over the island. Imagine turning an empty Coke bottle into something beautiful and practical to use in your homes! At each of the four workshops, she guided the participants in making this interesting craft. She also showed them many other practical uses for different parts of the bottle, such as a funnel, scoop or candle-holder.

At each workshop, ladies from different churches used the opportunity to invite non-believing friends along. Annette shared her testimony and an encouraging message from the Word and we believe that the seeds planted will bear fruit. In this age where so much emphasis is placed on recycling, it was fascinating to learn how to put empty Coke bottles to good use and at the same time participate in keeping our island green.

*Peace I leave with you; My
peace I give you. I do not give
to you as the world gives. Do
not let your hearts be troubled
and do not be afraid.*

John 14:27



Pictures from the SIM craft camp

Sunday School Picnic 2011

1



Hope Smith, Esther Scholtz and Janine Boman



Some of the Sunday School children who enjoyed the outing



FLYING OFF THE BOOKSHELF



Book reviews
by

Val
Nowlan

JUST FOR THE LOVE OF IT By Cathy O'Dowd

The first woman to climb Mt Everest from both sides

ISBN 0-620-24782-7

I make no apology for reviewing a secular book in our church magazine. This book I found in the public library at Alkantrand.

For me it became a 'could not put it down' book. It was not only the source of compelling reading. It also provided a substantial collection of brilliant photographs which, because of their subject matter, are historic and breathtaking.

At 8am on 29 May 1999 the author of the book, a 30 year old mountaineer from South Africa stepped onto the summit of Mount Everest, and into history. She had become the first woman to climb the highest mountain in the world from both its north and south sides. The book is beautifully written and contains plenty of candid insights into her life during the epic days of the ascent. There are carefully selected details of the funny side of life inside heavily padded thermal clothing. The story is also not without the pain of being witness to the death of more than one climber, in this life- and energy-sapping slog up the mountain, and the slow and deliberately careful descent later on. The author endeavours to answer questions of why, if climbing Everest can be so dangerous, people still want to do it.

It is a book of challenge and adventure, of love and life and death. This is Everest, the world's highest mountain, climbed just for the love of it.

25 September 2011

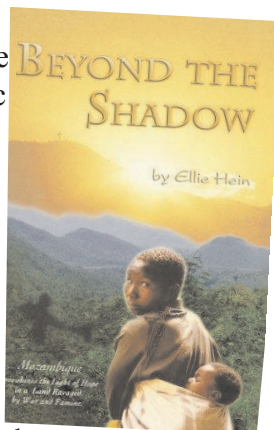
MOZAMBIQUE BEYOND THE SHADOW by Ellie Hein

Published by Christ for the Nations

ISBN 089985202-5

For me, reading this book felt like re-reading the time worn classic *Through Gates of Splendour*.

Set in Mozambique before, during, and after the Frelimo-Runamo war, some parts of the story are embedded in courage way beyond anything we can ever imagine. The story is filled with graphic descriptions of hardship, hard work, heart ache and sheer bone-shaking courage. The hearts of the author and her husband are set on proclaiming the good



news of salvation to the uttermost parts of the country. Some days they walked from sunrise until late at night so that the author felt herself falling asleep on her feet. Imagine trekking for six weeks on foot to remote preaching points, through forests, flooded rivers, clouds of flies and mosquitoes and other livestock, and you'll get some idea of their heart for the gospel and the unreached peoples of that country. As an aside to mission work, the author and her husband also helped move a nation baptized in the blood of intense political conflict, to the Peace Accord in Rome in 1992, ending a 16 year war in Mozambique. Today they are reaping abundantly because the gospel is yielding a harvest in a better Mozambique.

Money, Possessions, and Eternity. **- Randy Alcorn -**

reviewed by Oscar Maisiri

William Crapo Durant, the founder of GM and Chevrolet once said, “money is only loaned to a man. He comes into the world with nothing and he leaves with nothing”. Yes we come and leave the world with nothing, but that money (and possessions) are loaned to us isn’t a truth many live by. Well for me how I view money and material things has been challenged by a book I recently picked up to read, ‘Money, Possessions, and Eternity by Randy Alcorn.

The book which discusses money and possessions from a biblical perspective has left me asking myself probing questions. I have had to honestly examine my giving patterns; sometimes when I fail to give, even when I have, it is because I don’t see my money as a loan from God, instead I view it as mine to do with as I please. Other times, I think “I will be left with little” and frankly at times it is plain stinginess. Can you imagine how much our giving would be transformed if we all lived as stewards of God’s possessions? I am now reminding myself that all I have is a loan from God, I am just a steward.

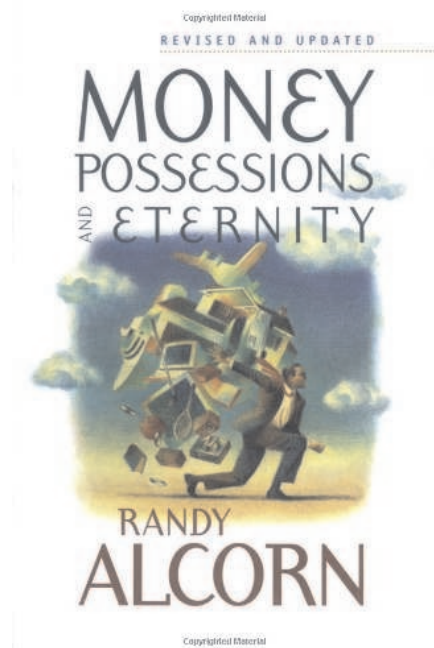
This 500+ page book is divided into four parts, ‘the challenge of money and possession’, ‘seeing money and possessions in eternity’s light’, ‘giving and sharing our money and possessions’ and finally ‘handling our money and possessions’. It is difficult to sum this book in this limited space but in brief some of the issues raised include a description of the excesses of both self denial and materialism. Note, it is not just the rich who worship money, the poor do too. The author addresses materialism and how it affects the church. He highlights the dangers of the prosperity gospel saying that it promotes lifestyles that are contrary to what the Bible teaches. Alcorn is not saying that God does not bless people materially. Instead, God’s material blessings are to enable recipients to be channels of giving towards God’s kingdom and not to promote self-centred and excessive lifestyles.

Still on the prosperity gospel, the author says it is man-centered rather than God centred. Alcorn proposes that there is a tendency to “arm-twist God into increasing our comforts and underwriting lifestyles.” The author points out that God often uses illnesses or financial hardships to make us more Christlike. Another issue discussed is that

of serving two masters and how impossible it is to do so. Alcorn reminds the reader that there is an eternal reward awaiting all those who use their wealth with an eternal perspective. He proposes a pilgrim mentality where one always thinks about how actions affect one’s life in eternity. It is more like reinforcing the message in Colossians to set our minds and hearts on things above and not on things below.

There is also the issue of tithing which is described as the ‘training wheels’ that help us to offer back to God. Alcorn suggests that true joy and rewards are to be found when we move from just tithing to sacrificial giving. Sacrificial giving, the author says, helps you and I loosen our grip on everything we have and helps us to fully commit ourselves into God’s hands. Sacrificial giving is not measured by the amount given, but what is left after giving. In the fourth section of the book, the author says that God requires the rich to give generously and meet the needs of the poor. In this regard, God calls us to live more simply and give more generously.

A well put truth relating to the poor is that failure to be aware of the needs of the poor and the lost, robs one of the privilege of being used by God as a channel of His grace. This made me ask myself, “do I take hold of strategic opportunities to make an eternal difference by giving? What does my lack of giving or unwillingness to give reflect of my view of God’s faithfulness?” I could go on but time and space restrict me; so if you are looking to have your worldview on money and possessions biblically transformed, then this is one book you may want to add to your collection. It is available on Kalahari.net at the cost of R139.



ALL SET FOR TAKE-OFF



by Noel Durrheim

Folk who are familiar with travelling abroad are aware of the fact that such trips are preceded by a lot of preparation. This includes giving attention to planning one's itinerary, arranging foreign currency, procurement of travel visas, purchasing of air tickets, etc.



Tissa Jayatunge (TJ), who retired from the Sri Lankan army with the rank of Major General, spent several months visiting his niece, Mrs Manoranee Silva (MS), the deputy High Commissioner of her country, based in Pretoria. As his visit drew to a close, TJ made all the arrangements for his return journey to his home country. He was accompanied by MS to the Johannesburg International Airport, in a chauffeur driven car, where he was due to

catch a plane for the homeward flight on 2011-07-18. Upon their arrival at the airport, TJ collapsed suffering from severe pain in his chest and he was struggling to breathe. He was placed in a wheel chair and rushed to the Emergency Medical Station in the airport complex. After being given a cursory examination he was transported by ambulance to a hospital in close proximity to the airport, where he received medical attention. MS, who had accompanied him to the hospital, was told to go home and informed that the hospital authorities would keep her posted on his condition. She phoned the hospital early the next morning, to enquire about her uncle's condition, only to receive the shocking news that he had passed away several hours earlier. TJ missed his flight to Sri Lanka but he was all set and had taken off to Heaven! This blessed reality brought great comfort to his niece in her sorrow.

Notwithstanding the fact that TJ's religious background was Buddhist, he frequently accompanied his niece to Sunday services at the Central Baptist Church, where I had the pleasure of making his acquaintance. An evangelism team from the Church visited them at their home several times and had the inexpressible joy of witnessing TJ putting his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour. The sincerity of his commitment is borne out by his niece's statement that he would spend quality time every day, studying the Bible, even before he had his first glass of water.



She affirmed with absolute confidence that her uncle had gone to occupy the place the Lord had prepared for him in Heaven.

Just a few days prior to TJ's home-call, he and his niece enjoyed fellowship, with a couple of Church friends, over a meal.

Before taking leave of their friends, TJ expressed his heartfelt appreciation to them for their hospitality and they had a time of prayer together.

Please pray for MS, who over and above her bereavement, had to make arrangements for her uncle's mortal remains to be returned to Sri Lanka,

where he was given a state funeral, with full military honours. Also uphold her in prayer as she participates actively in the Church's evangelism training programme, with a view to being equipped to share the Good News with her fellow citizens in Sri Lanka, on the expiry of her term of office in South Africa.

Praise the Lord for bringing Tissa all the way to South Africa in order to draw him to Himself.

INSPIRATION FROM THE WORD

(Excerpts from the Ethiopian Eunuch's conversion)

Ethiopian Eunuch: "Why can't I be baptised?"

Philip: "You can if you believe with all your heart."

Ethiopian Eunuch: "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!"

(Acts 8:36-37 LNT)



Sunday School Hike

Some of the adventurous ones included Neolene, Tanya, Michaela, Taylor, Greg, Nomsa, Peter, Heather, Jessica, Carol, Taylor, Colleen, Hope, Confidens.



Photos by Ryan

Sunday School Picnic 2011

2



Photos supplied by
Ryan v Rensburg
Thanks Ryan.



Bible Wordsearch

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Occupations of the Bible

Puzzle #118

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R T R E F I N E R R E T R O P
O R E N E D R A G H E L E G O
L E I O R M N A M X A T N O T
I H Z D S R B C O R R R N L T
A C A D N E B A R B E R I D E
T A R R F Y A R L K T H P S R
I E B U D D E M A M N R S M E
S T I G H T I M S R E V L I S
N T W G N H T O E T P R O T F
M S E I E N L V L W R H O H A
O F A S E D A E E A A E R H R
L P V T I R M N A I C I S U M
D I E E G S D R E H P E H S E
E M R N B U T L E R E K A B R
R R E L L E W E J F U L L E R
    
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BAKER	MUSICIAN
BARBER	PAINTER
BRAZIER	PORTER
BUTLER	POTTER
CARPENTER	REFINER
DRUGGIST	SEAMSTRESS
DYER	SHEPHERD
EMBALMER	SILVERSMITH
ENGRAVER	SMELTER
FARMER	SMITH
FISHERMAN	SOLDIER
FULLER	SPINNER
GARDENER	TAILOR
GOLDSMITH	TAXMAN
JEWELLER	TEACHER
MOLDER	TENTMAKER
WEAVER	



After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

Psalm 25

MORE PUZZLES AT:

<http://biblewordgames.com>

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The Church Family Abroad

The Kingons (Mark and Jenny, front) and the de Kiewits (Charles and Carol, back) return to a simpler form of transport, somewhere in Indiana, USA!





*The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn,
shining ever brighter till the full light of day.*

Proverbs 4:18