

September 2012

Central Baptist Church, Pretoria

# LIFE@central





# PASTOR'S CORNER

*by Charles de Kiewit [Senior Pastor]*

**S**o much has happened during these past few months at Central. If our editors were to include all the news, this edition may end up as more of a book than a magazine. We are grateful to God that there is so much healthy gospel ministry happening in and around Central.

On the 16th June this year the new Hill campus was launched. It was a wonderful time of celebration and dedication as members and friends gathered to give thanks to God for this new church plant in the far east of Pretoria.

This was soon followed by Holiday clubs in Arcadia, the Hill and in Magogong. Young and old were involved in these outreaches seeking to spread the gospel amongst children from different walks of life.

There was also the mission trip to Zambia where three of our men along with others from the Baptist Union set off to teach the book of Philippians in the northern parts of Zambia.

Campus Outreach hosted a cross cultural project team from the USA working in the residences on the campus reaching out with the gospel. It has been delightful to see young people from another part of the world slotting in and serving the cause of Christ.

The normal weekly ministry has continued with many of you giving of yourselves in service to our Lord Jesus. New members have joined, baptisms have taken place and babies have been dedicated.

Sadly, one of our deacons, Lester Mills passed away in July after a struggle with cancer. It was however a blessing to hear and see something of his Christian witness in the different circles of his life that friends spoke of during the memorial service. Pray with us for Lesley, Michelle, Daniel and Matthew as they grieve the loss of their loved one.

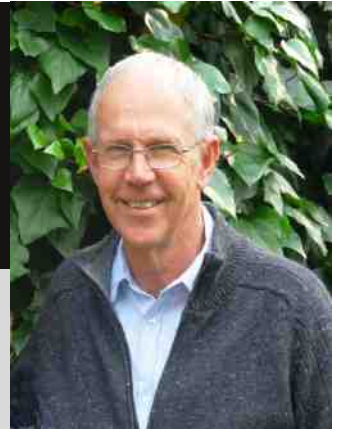
We have experienced much excitement in ministry anticipating much fruit for the kingdom. Read and enjoy this edition of Life at Central remembering at all times to pray, for apart from God we can do nothing.

May God bless and strengthen you

***Charles***

# CARING MINISTRY

*by Eric Robbins [Assistant Pastor]*



## THE HALF-WAY MARK

**We** all know about the discomforts of mid-life crisis! In women it means those very unpleasant symptoms associated with hormonal changes. In men it occurs when your son begins to out-run you or beat you at arm wrestling. You think to yourself "I'm not like I used to be, as beautiful or as strong". Mid-life is just a difficult time.

The middle of the year often feels like a bad mid-life crisis. Running the Comrades Marathon and reaching the half-way mark at Drummond with 44.5km into the race with 44.5km to go is the same thing. And unless you are a vibrant optimist or very fit you naturally tend to focus on those grueling 44.5km to come.

We are just a little past the half-way mark of 2012 and for most of us it probably feels quite difficult getting back into ministry after the holidays. It is still so cold in the evenings and mornings and it takes much more will power to get one going.

Well this is where some pastoral encouragement is needed. Don't think about how you feel! Rather focus on the cause. We are serving God! Reflect on the transcendent reality of Christ as creator, sustainer and ruler of all things. "He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. By him all things were created in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible . . . and in him all things hold together . . .and he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church" Colossians 1v15-17 and Ephesians 1 v22.

What a privilege and responsibility to be serving God. "Whatever you do work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive an inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ!" Colossians 3 v23-24.

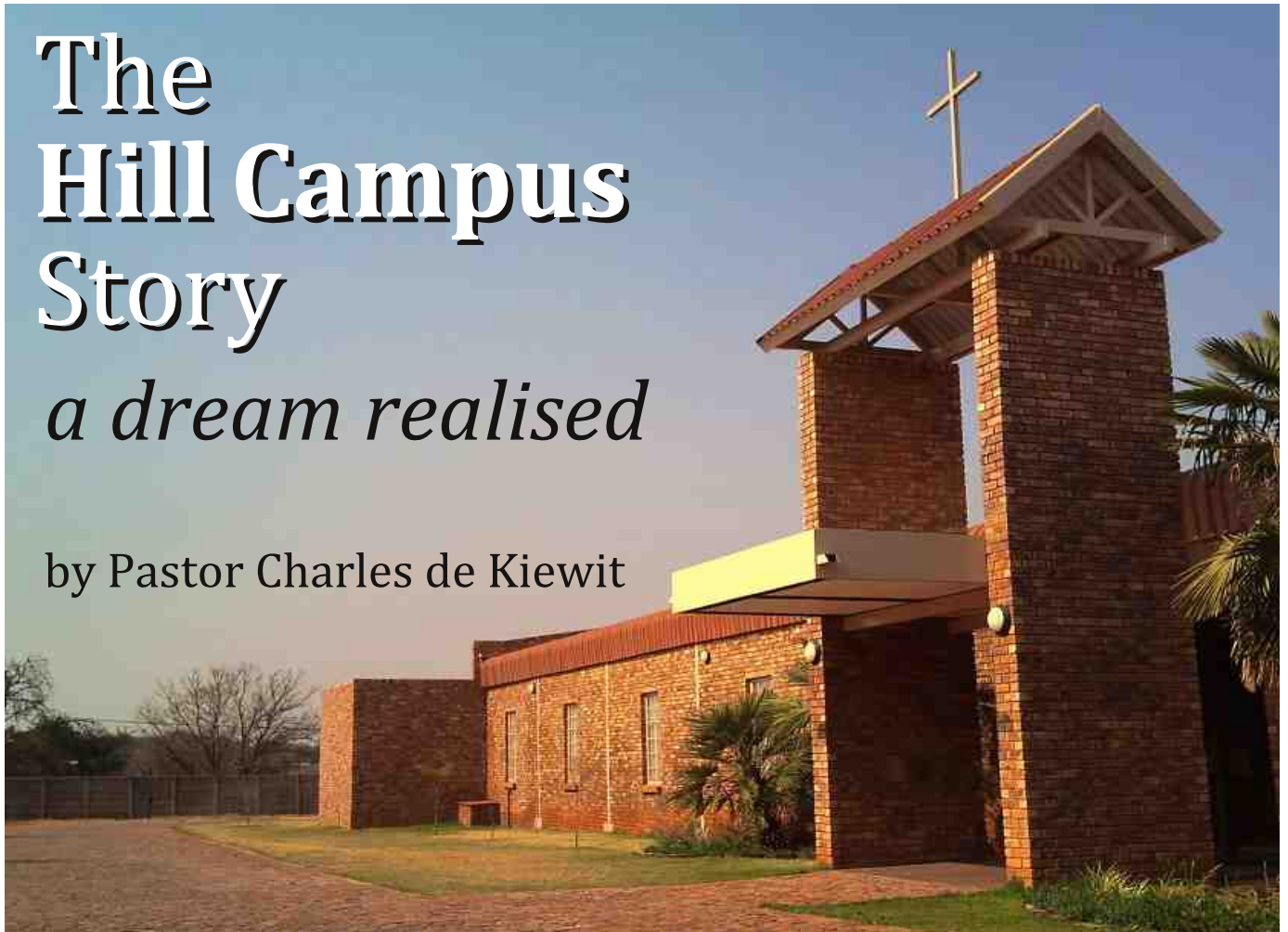
So be encouraged! There are only about 120 days to go till the beginning of December. Keep pressing on for the sake of the cause. And then in 2013 there is another year coming in which to glorify Christ.

***Eric***

# The Hill Campus Story

*a dream realised*

by Pastor Charles de Kiewit



*The Hill Campus was launched in June 2012 during which approximately 250 people were in attendance. The guest speakers were Rev Ian Stuart representing the BNA, Rev Rick Inglis representing the BU and Rev Riaan Niemandt representing the local pastors. Pastor Charles and Pastor Eric also addressed the meeting with Pastor Charles giving a brief history on the genesis of the Hill Campus.*

**If** it was not for God's prompting and men and women dreaming and taking leaps of faith, there would be no Central Baptist Church today. We exist today as a congregation because of men and women, who with the help of God, established a church in Pretoria more than 120 years ago. So it is not out of character when Central decided to dream and step out in faith in order to spread the word of God across the world. This time the dream was to expand, start a new 'Central' that was going to be different. This dream led to the establishment of our new Hill Campus far east of Pretoria beyond Hans Strijdom (renamed to Solomon Mahlangu) Avenue.

It all started in November 2008 when the idea to relocate the current Central Baptist Church was proposed during a leaders retreat. The discussion was that even though Central would

relocate, a witness in the downtown area of Pretoria would be established. So an investigation to acquire new property and a plan to build the capacity of a second morning service was started. Two weeks later during the monthly leaders meeting, a new proposal was tabled. Relocation was discarded and the leadership approved in principle the expansion of Central Baptist Church. All were in agreement that: a new church plant in the eastern suburbs of Pretoria is started, City Baptist Church is strengthened and the present strategic ministry in Schoeman (renamed to Frances Baard) Street is maintained.

Unlike in the past where Central established separate autonomous churches, the expansion of Central was going to be different. Central was going to plant a satellite campus and become what is known as a multi-site church. "This means that as a multi-site church, Central would

have church meetings at multiple locations. In the same way that we have three different congregations meeting at Schoeman Street every Sunday, we would add another congregation at a different venue but still very much part of the Central family” said Pastor Charles. Under this form of expansion the new church would be like a fourth congregation hence sharing the leadership, business meetings, finance and missions. With all this in place, the leadership was now left with the task of finding a suitable venue for the fourth congregation, the new ‘Central’.

Word got round that Central was in the market for a new church site so it was no surprise when Mr. Archie van Dyk called Pastor Charles with the prospects of a site down Atterbury Road beyond Hans Strijdom. At that time, the leadership felt the location was not ideal. That was not the end of the story, an elder called Pastor Charles saying “kyk is vry” (it won't cost anything to look). So a site visit was made to view the property and according to Pastor Charles, “there was no doubt in our minds that the property was suitable for our plans”. The entire leadership then visited the site and the enthusiasm grew. There was however one ‘tiny’ problem, the question of financing the project. Subsequent visits to the site were made and it was one such visit that turned the tide of things.

During this visit, the late Edgar Droste, a friend of Central who had been in property development, was invited to accompany the leaders. The objective was to seek his advice as to the value and soundness of the property and building. Thankfully, he thought it was a bargain even saying that if Central did not purchase the property he would do so himself. Then he enquired how Central would finance the project and in response was told that the property was going for R5.5 million and Central had R2.2 million. The R2.2 million was from the sale of the church manse, “at that time, we had no idea where the rest of the money would come from” says Pastor Charles. But God knew, Mr. Droste then offered a R3 million gift. This then was the provision to purchase the property, leaving Central with the challenge to raise money for the re-modelling of the warehouse. When the

proposal to purchase the land was taken to the church in October 2009, it was unanimously agreed to proceed with the purchase of the property.

On 1 March 2010 the new site was formally acquired. In May 2010 a building committee under the chairmanship of Dave Temple was established. To convert the warehouse to what it is today, a loan of R960 000 was acquired and a cottage at the Glenhaven was sold for R515 000. Additional money was raised in and through the church family.

Like any normal construction project, it was not smooth sailing; the rezoning was a nightmare. The final rezoning was published in the government gazette as recently as 30 May 2012. The estimated cost of re-modelling the warehouse started at R400 000 and ended up in excess of R2 million.

Apart from the challenge of the rezoning, there was the issue of what the new ‘Central’ would be called. Thankfully this had no financial implication and it was unanimously agreed that it would be called the ‘Hill Campus’. Whilst it has not been an easy road, Pastor Charles notes that, “there can be no doubt, the good hand of the Lord has been with us in bringing this about. He has shown His providential leading and provision again and again”. All the hurdles were worth it because today, in place of the warehouse stands a beautiful church building complete with a green reception area for church functions, a fully equipped and functional kitchen and a tastefully furnished mother’s room that gives mothers an opportunity to be part of the church service while the children play.

Well the journey continues and the dream lives on and in the word of Pastor Charles, “I thank God that Central continues to dream. I thank God for putting this in our hearts to do His work to the glory of His name. Let us move forward with the same attitude of those who have gone before”.

***“Our help is in the name of the Lord who hath made heaven and earth. This is the Lord’s doing and it is marvellous in our eyes. Blessed be the name of the Lord from henceforth and ever forever.”***

# The Hill Campus Gallery

## *Before & After*







# WOMEN'S VALUE

*A letter from Carol*

## **Dear Friend,**

I hope you have been keeping warm this winter. As you maybe aware, we have made some changes to our Kings Rubies meetings this year. We have now been meeting bi-monthly and not monthly as we use to do. Also our meeting times vary from having breakfast, lunch or afternoon tea together to a day seminar. Both venues, the Arcadia and Hill Campuses have been used for the meetings.

Let me remind you of some of the blessed times we have had this year. In January we enjoyed a lovely summer afternoon tea with Gayle Owen as our speaker. The theme for this meeting was 'Overload'; starting the new year with some lessons on how to cope with overload.

Then what a day we had in March – a day seminar designed for 'A Woman in Today's World' at the Arcadia Campus. Joy Moll focused her talk on the topic 'Here's my cup Lord, come and fill it up Lord'. Many ladies testified to how the Lord spoke directly to them and encouraged them. The rain which we had during the week forced us to change our venue from the Hill Campus to the Arcadia Campus at the last minute. No rain could dampen the enthusiasm of the many ladies who came and were blessed this day. Thankfully it didn't rain as had been forecasted.

Come Autum, we had a lovely Breakfast at the Hill Campus in May. Sue Sammons was so brave as she weaved in her testimony of her son's death with a talk on 'Letting Go'. For those who were not able to join us, let me tell you in summary what we heard that day.

First, as a child of God we are not excluded from troubles and suffering, they are inevitable. However, it is when we as God's children are at our lowest that God is at His most plentiful. Sue encouraged us to keep going back to God's Word because it is our greatest comfort. We should be dwelling more on God's word, so that when difficulties come we have the Word of God planted in our hearts and minds ready to reap.

Remember God's providential control and that He even knows the number of hairs on our head Matthew 10:29-30. It is so essential that we learn to lean on the Giver and not the gift – Rom 8:28, Ps 31:5.

He who calls us is faithful, through our loss or difficulties, we are given great opportunities and along the way, if handled correctly, we prove to the world that God exists and make visible what He has done. What an encouragement Sue was to those who attended this breakfast.

It's been winter and what better way to enjoy warm fellowship than over a bowl (or 2 or 3) of delicious home-made soup? But when you're in the soup you want to get as far away from the soup as possible. Our winter meeting entitled 'When you're in the soup' gave hope to those who feel there's no way out. As the main speaker, I tried to show that when we feel as if we are drowning, we need to call out to God and He will deliver us even if not in the way we expect.

Now all that's left, to end our year's programme is 'Bursting Forth' our Spring meeting which will be a mothers and



# WOMEN'S VALUE

daughters afternoon high tea. If you are a mother or a daughter you need to be at this celebration (in other words you are ALL invited). Lois Mixon the guest speaker has something wonderful up her sleeve for us.

Another exciting event coming up in the near future is a 'Spiritual Spa' for young married ladies, engaged ladies and those in a serious relationship. This will take the form of a lovely dinner followed by a time of practical teachings on how to be a Godly Wife. Watch the press for details.

My friends, to end my 'bit' – do you want to feel loved, special and encouraged? Do yourself a favour and re-read Psalm 139; re-read it and re-read it until you believe it with your whole heart. It would be great to have some feed-back from you. So at our next meeting we would like you to complete a 'survey' form to help us with our planning for next year.

With lots of love and laughter

**Carol**

## *Why we enjoy King's Rubies...*

### *Julie Baldwin...*

*"There are a few reasons why I enjoy King's Rubies, one of them is that I get involved with the preparation and serving. The other, is meeting with Central's ladies and getting to know one another better and of course the spiritual input is always a blessing."*

### *Maggie Martin...*

*"King's Rubies is always a delight because I find that the fellowship is always good and the 'Girl Talk' with one another is always a pleasure. We get to know each other better as we sit at different tables. I find that there is time to encourage one another at these meetings, something we don't always have time for on other occasions. The most meaningful programme for me this year was 'Letting Go' held in May with Sue Sammons as the main speaker. It was meaningful to me for because first of all it was our first meeting at the new Hill Campus. Also it was a breakfast meeting, the time I prefer, and the breakfast was delicious as always. I knew the speaker's topic was meaningful to me since I too have lost a child. I felt that Sue Sammons could easily speak about her loss, which was extreme and fairly recent but instead she turned all the attention to God and His Sovereignty. The whole meeting was very God glorifying I felt, and Sue did extremely well. It was a scripturally sound presentation on how to handle grief and I felt it was very relevant to everyone".*

### *Elizabeth Scott...*

*"I really enjoy King's Rubies because it gives me a chance to meet with other church ladies in an informal way. I like to sit with folk I don't know and would never meet otherwise. The food is always great and I'm really thankful to those who cook and serve it. There is something to learn from all the messages but one that stands out was Martin Holt speaking on GOD'S GLORY".*



# WOMEN'S VALUE

## RIGHT ON THE DOT

*by Julia Bettencourt*

*"Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him..." Psalm 37:7*

Have you ever had moments when you knew that God was with you "right on the dot"? Not that He ever leaves us. He is always with us but are there times when you need Him most, right at the nick of time, you sense His presence and leading?

I've had moments like that. I can remember not long after my husband and I were married we were traveling and our car broke down. It was late at night and we were out in the middle of nowhere with no one to help us; no cell phones back then. It was so dark, I remember being so scared and just praying and praying. I'm not sure how long we were stuck but it seemed like an eternity. Then all of a sudden a man and a lady pull up out of nowhere and helped us. The man knew just what to do and helped my husband. As soon as he had helped us, we looked up and the two were gone and everything was pitch black again. I always tell my husband that they were angels, whether they came straight down from heaven or not, I don't know. Whoever they were, I know God sent them "right on the dot".

There have been other things in my life, big and small when I knew that the Lord was leading and moving just in the nick of time. Sometimes we may not even be aware of God moving or how something worked out so timely. I'm so glad God knows what we need in our lives and

when we need it. God has a way of moving and weaving things so that they work together at just the right moment. God's timing is so perfect for us as His children.

The Bible has a lot of examples of how God moved 'right on the dot'. For example Sarah, God's timing in giving her a baby at her age I'm sure didn't make sense to her. Yet it happened according to what God wanted. The bible says, "Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son." Genesis 18:14.

Then there is the Shunammite Woman whose story can be found in 2 Kings Chapter 8. The prophet, Elisha, had brought the woman's son back to life and proceeded to tell the woman there would be a famine in the land for seven years and so she should go away with her family to avoid the famine. After the seven years was up, she returned and had to go before the king in order to plead for her land to be returned to her. At that very moment the king was talking to Gehazi, Elisha's servant. Then, the woman appeared before the king to ask for her land and Gehazi told the king that she was the woman whose child had been brought back to life. What happened? The king restored everything to her. Actually this is how the Bible in 2 Kings 8:6 records it, "...so the king



# WOMEN'S VALUE

appointed unto her a certain officer, saying, restore all that was hers, and all the fruits of the field since the day that she left the land, even until now" . The appearance of the woman just when Gehazi was talking about her to the King was not an accident, it was God's perfect timing, 'right on the dot'.

Then there is Lazarus, I'm sure Mary and Martha didn't think Jesus was where He needed to be at the right time. Maybe they thought that if Jesus had been at the right place at the right time, then Lazarus would not have died. Martha told Jesus, "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died" John 11:21. Often we question why, when, and how the Lord works in our lives. But we have to realise He is in control and knows what He is doing. What did Jesus tell His disciples on their way to see Lazarus? "And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him" John 11:15. This was an opportunity for God to get

the glory and for others to see what Jesus could do and Who He was. I'm sure you know the story and how Jesus brought Lazarus back to life. Everything in the story of Lazarus was in God's timing with God's purpose at the forefront.

We too have to wait on God's timing. Sometimes, I believe we think God should work instantly using the most efficient and fast means possible but God does not work that way. He is Sovereign. You and I have to go by His plan and not ours. What I have found so wonderful is that as His children, He knows us, our need (s) and the best time for the need (s) to be met. He sees the big picture and knows how every little thing in our lives is going to work with other circumstances and events. We may want to run ahead or lag behind His plan but the Lord is always 'right on the dot'.

*Submitted by Lana Pelser*

**Happy moments, praise God.  
Difficult moments, seek God.  
Quiet moments, worship God.  
Painful moments, trust God.  
Every moment, thank God.**

**I asked God for water, He gave me an ocean.  
I asked God for a flower, He gave me a garden.  
I asked God for a friend, He gave me all of YOU...  
If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.**

# A NEW SEASON

by Noel Durrheim

**I** arrived at the Faerie Glen Nature Reserve before 07:00 on a Saturday morning to find the parking lot jam-packed with motor vehicles, including two huge double-decker buses. I surmised that a large group of people had gathered there for some special occasion.

The sight and sounds of traffic were soon muffled by the ambient sounds of nature and the sight of trees and shrubs putting on their fresh green spring garb. The air was heavy with the scent of wild flowers, bursting forth into life after one of the severest winters we have experienced during the past decade.

It was good to see some of the birds, which had migrated to the north, returning to their summer habitat. A bustle of activity in the long reeds growing in the wetland area of the reserve betrayed dozens of small grey coloured birds, which to the inexperienced bird watcher, would not denote anything of real interest. On closer inspection it became clear that these were Red Bishops, which had not yet donned their bright red breeding plumage, searching for suitable nesting sites.



A nest of gargantuan proportions, constructed of a tangle of grass, sticks and other bric-brac, firmly wedged in the fork of a weeping willow tree caught my attention. This ungainly structure had taken a pair of Hamerkops weeks to construct. Whilst the female incubated her eggs inside the nest a noisy pair of Egyptian geese took up residence on top of the nest. A pair of Glossy Ibises (Hadidahs), perched on a branch adjacent to the nest, added their piercing cries to the persistent honking and hissing of the geese. (It would appear that the problem of not being able to choose one's neighbours is not unique to the human race!)



As I went on my way, the cacophony of birdcalls faded away in the distance. The spectacular sight of Swallows swooping gracefully, hither and thither in hot pursuit of flying insects, with such precision that one could imagine witnessing a choreographic display, synchronised to music, inaudible to human beings. They are certainly harbingers of the arrival of a new season!

My reverie was rudely interrupted by the sound of human voices emanating from the summit of the Bronberg and echoing in the valley below. On scanning the mountaintop I spotted a large group of people silhouetted against the skyline. I later encountered some of the members of that group as they descended the mountain, and conversed with



them. They told me that they belonged to a Christian Church consisting of more than a thousand members, based in Centurion and that a group of approximately one hundred young adults had spent several hours praying and worshipping the Lord on the mountaintop, I trust that this is symbolic of a new season in

our country, where attention is focused on the Lord, instead of on fickle politicians who make vain promises, which they know they will not keep.

I am grateful to the Lord for giving Central the vision to commence an extension work in the far east of Pretoria. This area is expanding rapidly, with thousands of people taking up residence in the numerous housing estates in that area. There is tremendous potential for the extension of the Kingdom of God and many opportunities for ministry in that community.

**WHAT AN EXCITING NEW SEASON IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH!** Let us pray earnestly that the Holy Spirit will equip and empower us to be effective witnesses, like believers in the early Church: ***“Constantly praising God and being in favour and goodwill with all the people; and the Lord kept adding daily those who were being saved from spiritual death”*** (Acts 2:47 Amp).

*Written October 2011*

## THANK YOU

A big vote of thanks is expressed to all those who invested their time and talents in getting the new campus ready in time for the public launch in Mid-June 2012. Gratitude is also expressed to the folk who distributed flyers, to residents in the community, advising them of the new campus and of the Holiday Club. The co-operation of key individuals, in numerous housing estates, who arranged for the distribution of flyers in their respective complexes, is much appreciated. One big housing estate even went the extra mile, by publishing a notice regarding the Holiday Club in their in-house magazine - free of charge!



*The Hill Campus*

# BEING A SWEET AROMA / FRAGRANCE / SCENT FOR CHRIST

by Sylvia Thantsha (Women's ministry leader: Polokwane)  
and submitted by Bev van Rensburg

Image: FreeDigitalPhotos.net

*During this year's National Baptist Convention held in July, Sylvia Thantsha, the ministry leader for Apples of Gold Polokwane, delivered a sermon to about 600 ladies of the Baptist Convention. I had the opportunity to go through her notes and I helped her with the editing. We had a wonderful time of prayer over this topic, "Being a Sweet Aroma for Christ", based on 2 Corinthians 2:14. I was so encouraged and blessed by the contents of her sermon that I decided to share part of it.*

The journey to becoming a sweet aroma begins with being in tune with the Holy Spirit. Paul was sensitive to the Holy Spirit, he obeyed the prompting of the Holy Spirit and left what seemed like good ministry for what God had as better ministry. Obedience is critical if one is to become a sweet aroma. Paul in Romans 12:1 and 2 says, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." We are to dedicate everything about ourselves to God.

It is Jesus who makes us an aroma of His presence. God wants us to be fragrant people in order for us to be His ambassadors, which for Paul meant "for to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). It means we rely on

God's power to strengthen us because Paul says in Romans 8: 31 and 37, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" God's will is not for us to live defeated lives but rather for us to be strong and victorious through him!

In order to produce a fragrance a number of processes are involved: cutting a tree, removing the gum and then beating the gum till it is a fine powder. Thereafter, sweet and sour spices are mixed into the powder and the mixture is then heated in order for it to release a fragrance. This set of processes before the final product is produced, is a reminder of some of the difficulties and refinements that we need to go through in order to be a fragrance that pleases the Lord and others with whom we come in contact. We often have to go through hurt, emotional cutting, beating, heating, mixing and heating again before we can become a pleasing aroma. The tree cutting represents the suffering and the sacrifice. It was through the sacrifice and suffering at the cross that our salvation was purchased. Suffering in the life of a Christian is



Image: FreeDigitalPhotos.net

an essential part if one is to release Christ's fragrance to bless others.

Christ had to pass through experiences of beating and bruising before the full fragrance was released to God and men. The beating of the bark/wood is followed by heating if the fragrance is to be released, and how we respond to pressure (heating) can release a pleasing fragrance to God and to the world. Mixing sweet and sour spices is what gives a good perfume aroma, not over sweet, and in relation to life, we need to trust God when He says in Romans 8:28 that He works ALL things together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purposes? Sometimes we may not understand why bitter experiences make us better. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 tells us to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you".

We need to endure suffering for Christ's sake. James 1:12 says, "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him". Throughout the whole process of making a fragrance, only the perfumer is given the responsibility of mixing the perfume; it is God who works in our lives to make us pleasing aromas. Fragrances are important to God, in Exodus 30:37-39, He gave a formula for making the incense to be burned on His altar, a unique aroma that was never to be imitated or used for any other purpose. The wood had to be beaten very small so it could release the fragrance. It was mixed by the perfumer for best results. The heavenly fragrance is unique, nobody can imitate it. It is the result of a life in close fellowship with God.



Image: FreeDigitalPhotos.net

We are the carriers of the perfume - the perfume of the knowledge of Christ. The perfume of Christ can only be acquired by those who live in the place of intimate communion with Him. The questions are, are we prayerful, do we savor the presence of God? A magnificent scripture referring to the fragrance of incense is Revelation 5:8 "and when He (the Lamb - Jesus), had taken the scroll, the 4 living creatures and 24 elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls of incense, which are the prayers of the saints." How wonderful, our prayers, as believers are like precious perfume to God! Always remember the power of prayer as shown so clearly in Revelation 5:8 - that the prayers of the saints are like incense to God. As we commune with Jesus, we are cleansed and are filled with Holy Spirit, let us spread the fragrance wherever He leads us!

*Through this encouraging sermon, I was reminded that as Christians we are called to release Christ's fragrance every day. At the conclusion of the meeting each lady was given a small perfumed soap cross or praying hands to remind them to be 'the aroma of Christ' to the world.*

### ***What are the characteristics of a perfume?***

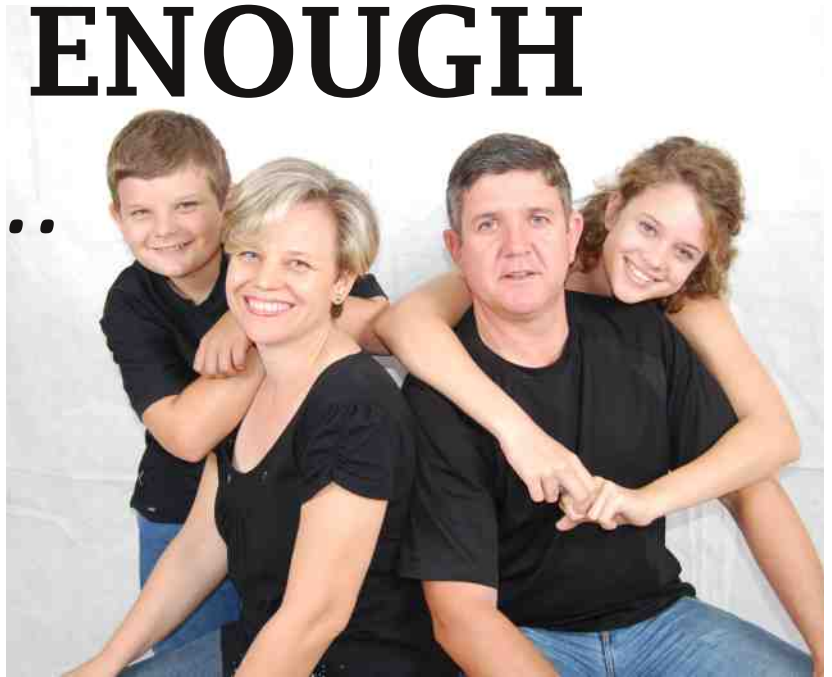
- *It should make you smell nice.*
- *The perfume can either smell good or bad.*
- *The fragrance will attract some people and repel others.*
- *It's not the cover or the beautiful bottle that makes it smell good but the origin.*
- *The perfume is not affected by the surroundings. It does not take on its scent from what is round about. Its fragrance is released freely without taking account of its surroundings.*
- *Cannot be described, can be recognized.*
- *Cannot be measured, it's a matter of quality not quantity that matters.*
- *It makes people yearn to possess the secret of this scent.*

Image: FreeDigitalPhotos.net

# STRONG ENOUGH TO LET GO...

## RETURNING FROM MAURITIUS

*by Lize Labuschagne*



When our work permit came up for renewal in September 2011, we did not doubt that we would receive it. After serving in Mauritius for almost 13 years and being at the height of our ministry there, we submitted our application, confident that we were still needed on the island. Imagine our bewilderment when our permit application was turned down. No amount of faith, prayers, effort or strategising proved fruitful and we found ourselves on a plane back to South Africa on 8 December 2011, with very little hope of ever returning to Mauritius again.

As the plane took off, the island lay below us outlined by the turquoise coloured ocean and the gentle white line of the waves breaking over the coral reef. When we could no longer see it, indescribable emotions and a myriad of questions rushed through our minds. Where was God leading us? Will we ever see our beloved island, colleagues, brothers and sisters again? When...? What if...?

The day after our arrival in South Africa, Pieter's eye fell on this quote from a sugar bag in a coffee shop: *'Giving up doesn't always mean you are weak. Sometimes it means that you are strong enough to let go'*. This simple quote encouraged us greatly. After fighting the denial of our permit with every possible resource at our disposal, we came to a point one night where we had to give up and face the reality of returning. By his grace, God gave us the strength we needed to let go of our dreams, vision, our island, its beloved people and follow Him into the unknown.

Back in South Africa, we received great support and encouragement from SIM, our sending church, various supporters, family and friends. Though we felt uncertain regarding the future, these people assured us of their prayers and assistance. The security provided by this network of friends enabled us to take one step at a time into the uncertain future and gradually see God's plan for our family unfolding.

When our new term of service commences in September 2012, we will be taking responsibility for the French speaking islands in the Southern African Region, working from the SIM Region of Southern Africa (ROSA) office. These islands include Mauritius, Madagascar and Reunion. Each island is at a different stage in ministry development and we are responsible for assisting the missionaries there. We remain full-time missionaries, depending on financial support, but with an enlarged responsibility towards the islands.

God is always at work to accomplish his glory and purposes. Sometimes we need to suffer discomfort, loss or hardship so that He can put His plans into motion, for the sake of His glory and purposes. What we had to suffer is almost insignificant in comparison to what others go through, yet the sense of loss was and still is, very real. But we are grateful to God for showing us where He plans to use us next and pray that we will do so faithfully.

# A NATIONAL ONLINE SURVEY ON BIBLICAL LITERACY LAUNCHED

*by Dr. Reuben van Rensburg*

The South African Theological Seminary (SATS) recently launched an online Biblical literacy survey which will run from August 15 to October 2012. The objective of the survey is to find out the state of Biblical Literacy amongst Christians in South Africa. According to Dr. Reuben van Rensburg the Principal of SATS, "as a seminary we have for some time been deeply concerned about the state of Biblical Literacy in our country".

The Biblical Literacy survey will probe three issues from the target group - how and the extent to which they read or study the Bible, whether they believe the content of the Bible and the extent to which they apply the Bible. "I am convinced that the results will greatly assist our denominational leaders to make any appropriate interventions which may be necessary" added Reuben as he is fondly known in Central. All members of Central are encouraged to complete the survey which can be found on <http://survey.sats.edu.za>.

For any further information please email Reuben on [reuben@sats.edu.za](mailto:reuben@sats.edu.za) or call him on 083 554 5052.



## *First new members of the Hill Campus!*



*Barbara Quesnell* is living at Glenhaven and involved in service there. She is a headmistress by profession and comes into membership with a desire to serve in the church.

*Rodney Kotze* also lives at Glenhaven and has been very involved there at a management level. He is also one of the faithful workers in the Glenhaven 'White Elephant Stall'.

# MAGOGONG

2 0 1 2

*by Ryan van Rensburg*

Recently eight of us from Central teamed up with the Word of Life Church in Vereeniging to run a one week holiday bible club in the picturesque town of Magogong located in the Northern Cape between Vryburg and Jan Kempdorp. Two townships were targeted, Bonita Park where the Central's team and part of Word of Life ran the outreach and Pampierstad which was reached by a Word of Life team.

The first day of the mission at Bonita Park was anything but encouraging, we arrived to find no kids and only one volunteer from the community. Marno Kirstein, Celia (a local volunteer) and I jumped into the van and drove around with a megaphone calling the kids to come. The megaphone seemed to have worked because at the end of that day we managed to attract more than 100 children. The life of Peter in the Bible was the theme of the holiday club. Through the use of puppets, music, games, art and crafts and of course Bible lessons we were able to share the gospel with children from Bonita Park. I must say that living in Bonita Park is not easy because it is a difficult community with much unemployment, alcoholism and poverty. Children often believe in solving their problems with violence.

In total we reached 250 children with the gospel and three children gave their lives to God. We are very grateful and I believe that good seed was planted and that God will continue to work in the hearts of the children.

The Holiday Bible Club was organised in collaboration with one of Central's missionaries, Andrew Murray. The team from Central was composed of Marno Kirstein, Ingrid Olivier, Marlize Labuschagne, Lize Labuschagne, Matthew De Kiewit, Jessica Lowe, Jessica Lazenby and I. The team from Word of Life was headed up by their youth pastor, Murendeni Nefale.



*The full team from Central and Word of Life*



*Kids enjoying themselves*



*Some of the team with Andrew Murray*



*Matthew with his alter ego, Tommie*



*Marno, Ingrid and Jessica Lowe  
- part of the singing team*



*Ingrid preparing a  
memory verse*



*Drama - Jesus with Peter, James  
and John in the sailboat*



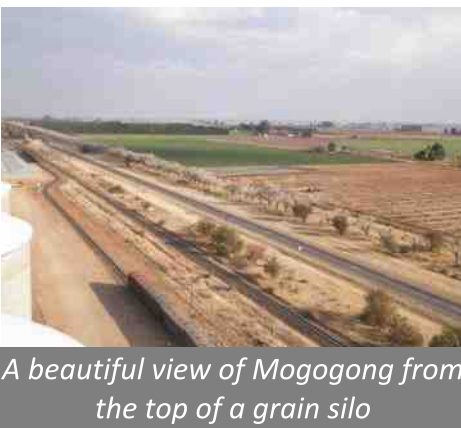
*Enjoying peanut butter  
sandwiches and soup*



*Jessica with her group of girls*



*Girls enjoying netball*



*A beautiful view of Mogogong from  
the top of a grain silo*



*Marlize, Lize and Tommie  
(Matthew) doing the puppet show*

# GLENHAVEN

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## *A Mission Field?*

*"I have been a Christian all my life and attended church faithfully. However, if I had died two years ago I would have gone to hell! It is only since coming to Glenhaven that I have heard the Gospel."*

A resident at Glenhaven

Glenhaven is the first and largest retirement centres that are administered by Central Baptist Church Welfare Association (CEBACWAS). There are approximately 235 men and women resident at Glenhaven, some married some not. Some live in cottages, some in flats, some in bed-sitters and some in the care unit. Some residents own their units while others are renting their units. Even though the population at Glenhaven is mixed, majority are female. Some are older, 90+ and others younger 60+. Some are English speaking, some speak Afrikaans and others a home language that is something else. Some drive their own cars and others make use of the Glenhaven bus.

In terms of faith, some are regular Church attenders while others are not. Some are born again believers, some just know about Jesus and others have little or no interest in Christianity. Even though there are many different denominations represented at this retirement centre, the thrust of Glenhaven is unashamedly Christian. To this end, some of

us who are born again have formed a 'Spiritual Ministries Committee' made up of members from different denominations so 'that by all possible means we may win some' for God's Glory.

The Spiritual Ministries Committee is very active and is responsible for many and varied activities. The committee's chairman is the appointed Glenhaven chaplain. As chaplain his duties include visiting all new residents, those in hospital or sick at home as well as those recently bereaved. The chaplain also helps any residents experiencing spiritual problems and generally prays with residents when needed.

Some of the activities that are undertaken by the committee include ensuring there are preachers for the well-attended Sunday morning and evening services. Offering taken during these services is budgeted for and donated to various organisations and people. Some of the beneficiaries are the Bible Society, Radio Pulpit, Trans World

Radio, Leprosy Mission, Scripture Union, Lauren McGill and P. Vorster (in Upington). Any expenditure related to ministry such as speakers fees comes out of the offering collected during the services. For the frail and sick not able to attend the church services, recorded bible readings in English and Afrikaans are played each week in the Care Unit Lounge. Prayer meetings are held once a week in English and once a week in Afrikaans in the hall. Three different bible studies are held led by different people, on different days and at different times each week.

In order to promote 'giving' among the residents, a 'Food and Blanket Fund' was set up. This fund collects money, as well as items from residents, for monthly distribution to different needy institutions. Residents are encouraged to give to those less fortunate.

Every resident receives a birthday card on their birthday from the Spiritual Ministries Committee; bereaved families also receive a sympathy card.

A Friendship Circle has been formed to give help to residents and staff in the Care Unit, repair garments, take residents for walks, and other help where needed. At Christmas-time, items made by cottage residents, are distributed to every care unit resident. Visits are frequently made to shut in's and lonely folk in the Care Unit. Tracts and printed prayers are made available to them. A Hobbies class meets monthly giving residents something to do. Corridor tea parties are arranged at Easter and a

Spring family day party at the beginning of September. All these outreach activities aim to improve the spiritual, mental, physical and social wellbeing of the Care Unit residents.

Music Ministry is well accepted. A choir that sings at Christmas time, on other special occasions and when asked to do so, is much enjoyed by all. The Corridor Choir sings every quarter in the Care Unit, others join in with choir members to treat the residents.

Numerous other activities are arranged to keep residents active, involved, and interested. The annual Fete not only raises much needed finance to help those folk in the care unit whose pensions no longer cover their fees, but fulfills this need.

It is the intention of the Spiritual Ministries Committee that every resident who lives at Glenhaven, gets the opportunity to hear the gospel. We pray that the beauty of Jesus may be seen in every resident who knows Jesus as Lord. We "do not want anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance".

## *Soli Deo Gloria*



*Glenhaven (Image: [www.central.org.za](http://www.central.org.za))*

# MISSION

2012

# ZAMBIA

Image: Wikipedia



This year it was Eugene van Heerden, Eric Robbins and Tim van Stormbroek who embarked on a three day road trip for a mission to Zambia's Copper Belt. The three Centralite missionaries together with six other pastors from Zambia preached and taught from the book of Philippians to almost 200 pastors and their wives. Much blessing followed and several people came to Christ for the first time.

*Top right:  
Good friendships were made*

*Middle:  
Pastors and wives at Katembula*

*Right:  
Tim preaching*





*Above left:  
Together with our interpreters*



*Above right:  
We were well looked after*

*Right:  
Eugene, Tim & Eric the intrepid  
travelers*



*Below:  
This fellow was right next to  
the road*



*Above:  
Victoria Falls - we had  
some fun too*



*Left:  
Pastor's mode of transport*

# CONFESSIONS

## *of a Youth Minister*

by Warrick Paul Jubber

Having been in youth ministry for a while, I can confirm that it is not a training ground for those interested in becoming 'real ministers' in future. In addition, contrary to what some may think, youth ministry is not where one serves with little regard for one's consequences. Instead I am convinced it is not for the weak but for the strong and mature. I will tell you why, the stakes are high, the challenges are enormous, and the cost is great.

The stakes are high because as much as teenage years can be tumultuous, they are also years of potential. A youth minister therefore has the opportunity to lay the right foundation to prepare a teen for his or her adult life. For us Christians, the right foundation is the one that will yield a God centred life filled with joy. As teenagers navigate through life there is a lot they have to deal with, choices they have to make and sometimes, they are easily influenced towards a self-destructive lifestyle. This is because human beings come hard wired to sin; we come with that 'default setting'. Only God can turn around a life set on the road to destruction.

This is why as I minister to teenagers, I often ask myself 'how will I influence the teens this week?' I am constantly aware that they check out my every action, word and attitude. One badly expressed comment about the perverseness of lust can plunge a teen struggling with pornography into despair. A bad joke about being fat overheard by a teen struggling with self-image can negatively affect the teen's perception of image in the Lord. For a girl, her perception of beauty can darken her understanding of beauty in the Lord. Since I am constantly under the teens microscopic eyes, I have learnt that the youth ministry is not a place where I can adopt a casual attitude about mistakes.

Youth ministry is marked with enormous challenges and apart from pornography and image

issues, some teens struggle with drunkenness, pre-marital sex, drugs and homosexual relations. Unfortunately for some teens these issues are not a source of struggle but rather a lifestyle that is enjoyed. The question is how does one reach teens and show them the consequences of a life that is set on the road to destruction? How does a youth minister show teens that only Jesus truly satisfies, that no one is beyond redemption and the love of God in Jesus Christ? Essentially the answer is easy – the gospel, but an easy answer doesn't mean that it is easily applied.

The flip side is that a teen may not engage in self-destructive practices yet may be living a life separated from God. Christian parents face the danger of being lulled into a false sense of security when they have well behaved church going teenagers whose hearts may be so far from God. Such parents may be so happy to have a 'good teen' that the state of their teen's heart is not a matter of concern. Also teens may be deluded to believe they are on good ground with God because they come from a Christian family and read their Bibles. A youth minister has to find ways of warning the 'good' teen about the dangers of self-righteousness.

Simply put, youth ministry is difficult and without God's grace youth ministers have no hope. It is a costly ministry in terms of time, money and energy and sometimes the rewards are low if present. It can also be emotionally draining, burdensome and hurtful especially when one sees the teens getting hurt. So, you may wonder why I am in youth ministry. I'll tell you why, my heart is captivated by the love of God in Jesus Christ. I have a passion to see others come to know the same love through the same gospel. Youth ministry is my joy and I honestly love teenagers. I have been encouraged, humbled and honoured to serve in the youth ministry. My appeal to you is for you to pray for those of us involved in youth ministry.

# *CENTRAL'S* **MISSIONS EXPO** *TO BE HELD*

Central's Missions Expo will be held from 7 to 9 September 2012 at Central's Arcadia Campus. The theme for this year is 'Striving Together- A Life Changing Message'.

Topics that will be covered are cross border and mutual dependency in missions, the role of missionary support groups, the use of modern technology in missions, the expectations missionaries have, as well as inner city missions.

The speakers scheduled for the expo include Terry Rae, Eric Robbins, Tim van Stormbroek, Jackson Kayambwe and Peter Vumisa.

## **TIMES**

7th September - From 7.00 pm.

8th September - From 9.00 am to 12.30 pm.

9th September - The 10:30 am church service. It is important to note that there will be no 8:00 am service on this day.

***“Prayer that is based on relationship  
and not transaction may be the most  
freedom-enhancing way of connecting  
to a God whose vantage point we can  
never achieve and can hardly imagine”***

Philip Yancey in  
**Prayer, Does it Make a Difference**

# Sunday School Ministry Updates

by Dawn Robb

A lot has happened in the Sunday School ministry; some good, some bad but in all God is at work and we gratefully thank Him. Some of the highlights include this year's Baptist Union Scripture exam in which 38 members of Central participated. We certainly hope that we will do as well if not better than we did last year when Central took the 6th place in the Baptist Union. The results are expected in September. The Adventurer's group has had many outings combined with Blast off. Thanks to Ryan van Rensburg and his helpers for their on-going interaction with this age group.

One of our lows was the passing on of Lester Mills on 23 July 2012 after a two year battle with cancer. Lester together with his wife Lesley served as the Sunday School Superintendent couple. The family has been through two difficult years and our hearts go

out to Lesley, Michelle, Daniel and Matthew in their grief. We as a Sunday School team will continue to pray, support and love them in the months and years ahead.

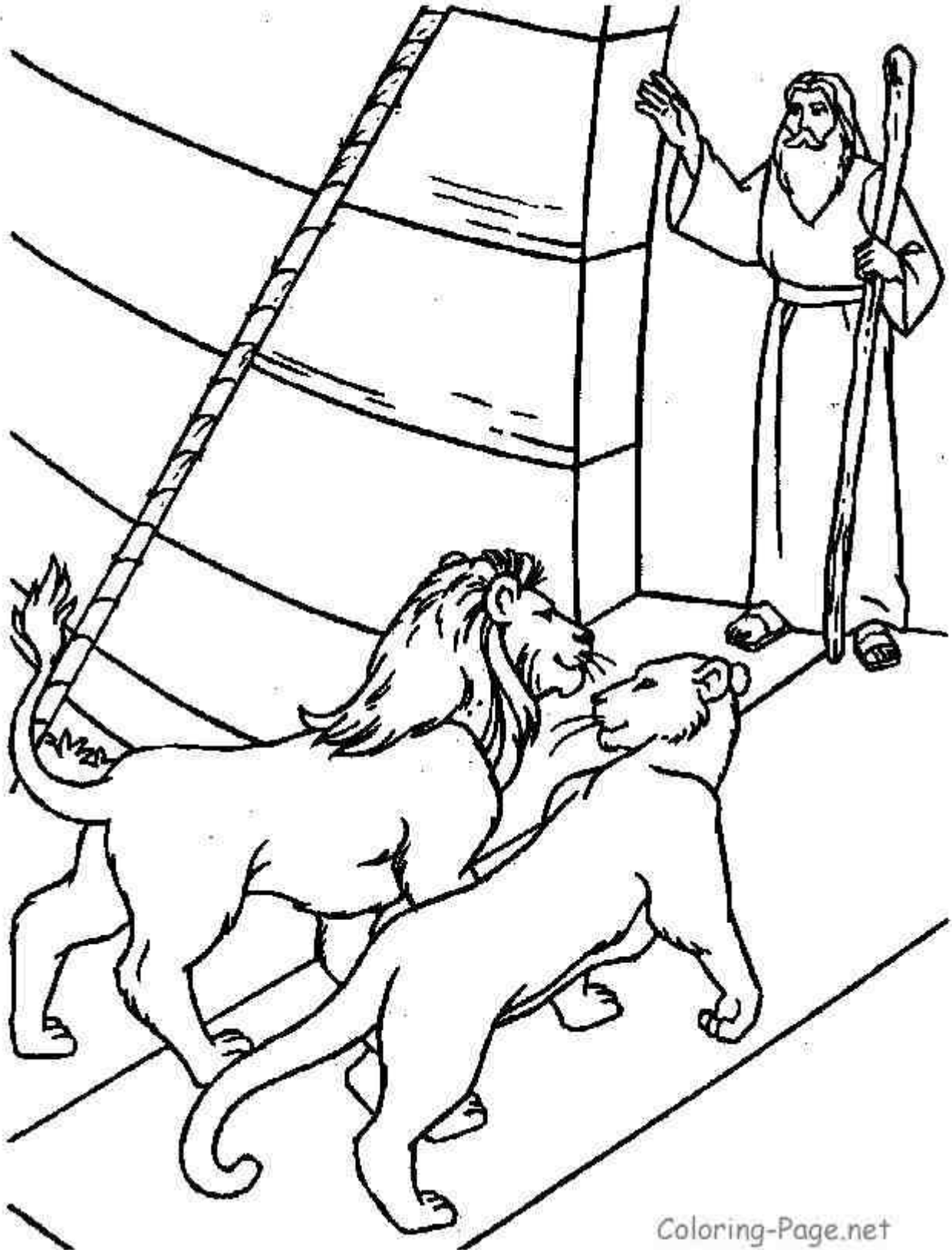
On the pipeline is our annual Sunday School picnic which will be held on Monday 24 September 2012 at a venue that will be announced soon. We are also thankful that the Sunday school at The Hill Campus is also growing steadily in numbers.

Thank you to all the teachers in Arcadia and The Hill for their preparation in teaching the children week by week. In this way the children will come to know the Lord as their Saviour, apply the word and grow spiritually. We pray that all the work that gets done in the Sunday school will be to the Glory of God!

***Some pictures from the Coliseum, wait no, it's Bradley Salzwedel's bachelors party! Brad will be entering the arena on 25 August 2012.***



# Colouring Page



Coloring-Page.net

# HOLIDAY

# CLUB

*by Quentin Saunders*

During this year's Holiday Bible Club at the Arcadia campus, I was once again reminded that we serve a faithful God. It is difficult to tell you everything about the Holiday Bible Club within this limited space but I can certainly summarise and hopefully capture some of happenings during this one week with the children.

***The challenges*** - They came in the form of weather and resources, all beyond our control but well within God's control. The week of the Bible Club this year was freezing! That was not all, just before the club started, we hardly had any donations. It also seemed like helpers would be scarce, people responded late and some of our key young adults were now involved at the Hill Campus Holiday Bible Club in the second week of the holiday. Thankfully, neither the weather nor the hurdles could dim the passion with which the leaders and helpers ministered.

***His faithfulness*** - By the time the Bible Club started, donations in the form of money, biscuits, fruit and coffee, tea and juice started to stream in and we ended up having enough biscuits even for the Hill Campus Bible Club. Then many people volunteered even till the end! I thank God for the godly men He gave us to lead the groups and also teach the main lessons. We had a great team at the crafts department and God also brought new people to lead the music and sports departments. What encouraged me was the young people who took responsibility and did hard things for God and finished strong with a parents afternoon on the last day of the Bible Club. We have gotten great feedback from parents.

***The accident*** - Well, one day one of the leaders came to me and said that one of the kids had had an 'accident' that necessitated a change in a pair of socks, trousers and underwear. Wondering what to do, I decided to pray, surely God can

provide. So we went to the clothing boutique where Central keeps donated clothes and what do you know, we found socks that fitted, a pair of jeans that looked like they were made for the little guy and some 'Lightning McQueen- Cars' underwear! The young boy was able to join the rest of the children without enduring any embarrassment. God is faithful in the little things.

***The agnostic*** - We had an encouraging encounter with a young self-professed agnostic. The boy visited the Bible Club for three days and though he did not get saved, seeds were sown. He heard the powerful gospel and now we can only trust God to do the work of salvation in this boy's life. The encouragement for me was to see how the leaders and even some of the children prayed for this young boy loving him with a God like, agape love.

***The reward*** - Ministering to children is very humbling because a lot of what is done goes unnoticed by the children since many seem lost in their own little worlds. Nevertheless, ministering to children is rewarding. They may not come and say thank you for the great messages, hours spent on crafts, day spent running around and dancing. The work that goes on in the kitchen may escape their busy eyes and minds. Still it is our privilege to serve knowing that on this earth we may never see what God is doing through a ministry like the Holiday Bible Club. One day we will be able to fully see the fruit of this ministry. So our reward as we served the Lord was being changed by serving at the Bible Club, we were being sanctified. Becoming more like Christ is a great reward. Glory to God.

To all Centralites, thank you for your prayers and donations. May the Lord bless you.



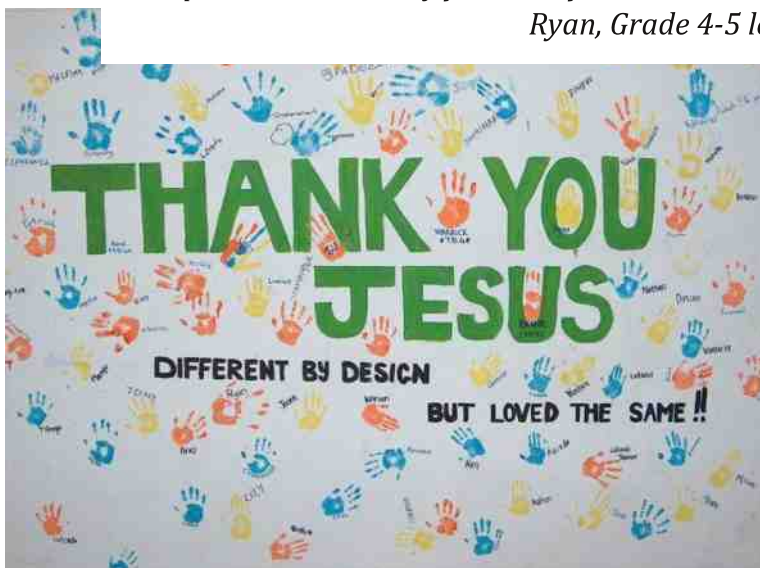
*"The children learn fast and have the capability of understanding more than we give them credit for. The kids understood and remembered most of the story themes and characters of each story. Their ability to understand, comprehend and remember the bible stories relayed was amazing and the highlight for me."*

*Bazil, Pre-school leader.*



*"I enjoyed being able to interact one on one with the children in the small group time. I enjoyed seeing the children having fun and learning more about Christ. The whole experience was really fantastic for me and I would definitely love to do it again."*

*Ryan, Grade 4-5 leaders.*



# Humour

***Dakota Native American tribal wisdom, passed on from generation to generation, says:***

***"When you discover that you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount and get a different horse."***

***However, in some institutions, more advanced strategies are often employed, such as:***

1. Buying a stronger whip.
2. Changing riders.
3. Appointing a committee to study the horse.
4. Arranging to visit other countries to see how other cultures ride dead horses.
5. Lowering the standards so that the dead horse can be included.
6. Reclassifying the dead horse as 'living impaired'.
7. Hiring outside contractors to ride the dead horse.
8. Harnessing several dead horses together to increase speed.
9. Providing additional funding and / or training to increase dead horse's performance.
10. Doing a productivity study to see if lighter riders would improve the dead horse's performance.
11. Declaring that as the dead horse does not have to be fed, it is less costly, carries lower overheads and therefore contributes substantially more to the bottom line of the economy than do some other horses.
12. Rewriting the expected performance requirements for all horses.

***And of course...***

13. Promoting the dead horse to a supervisory position!

*Written by Dr. Backson Sibanda (used with permission)*

*A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.*

*'Mama, look what I found,' the boy called out.*

*What have you got there, dear?'*

*With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, 'I think it's Adam's underwear!'*

# SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

There are 15 differences between these two pictures... Have fun finding them!



## The *Life at Central* Magazine

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

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

Previous editions (2006 to 2011) are also available.

Edited by Wambui Gititu and Daniel Salzwedel. The new masthead was designed by Marno Kirstein.

**LIFE@central**