

# LIFE AT CENTRAL

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

May 2007



## Weekend Getaway



Jesus – The Water of Life

“Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life”

*John 4:13b*



*Dear friends*

Much of what happens at Central is as a result of a great and godly heritage. Many of those who have gone before us were devoted to God and gospel ministry. There is a "momentum" that we enjoy today simply because of the men and women who had an unwavering commitment to the Scriptures and the Glory of God. These are values we need to treasure and, as far as we are able, keep passing on to those that will follow us.

We must however realize that churches and communities do not remain static. Much of what has been handed down to us is good and should not be tampered with. There are however secondary things that were relevant in the past, which may not be appropriate today. I am suggesting that we seriously give thought to life and ministry at Central where we need to understand that "The gospel must be constantly forwarded to a new address because the recipient is repeatedly changing place of residence (Helmut Thielike)". This doesn't mean a change in theology but it may mean reviewing some of the ways we do things and perhaps doing some things in ways we have never done before. We are grateful to God for all He has been doing and the many evidences of grace around us. The challenge is ongoing and so please think and pray with the leadership so that we may be more effective in all the ministries here at Central.

May God use us all to make a difference in our city to the glory of His name.

*Charles*



# Pastor's Corner

Cover Photo of stream by Lauren M:  
WATER OF LIFE!

All over Tajik you get signs saying 'water is life'... yet very few people know about the Water Of Life.... the water one drinks, never to be thirsty again!



Magazine Submissions - email: [life@central.org.za](mailto:life@central.org.za)

Thank you to all who contributed to this fairly packed edition of Life At Central. Your time and effort is appreciated!  
- Kim Gush

# On Giving



**C**hallenge: How many of us give to secular needs ... NGO's with good social help records, who service communities that may include Christians but also may not. Would it not be so much more beneficial for the Kingdom if benevolence and help was given firstly to needy brothers and sisters in the Kingdom? This is the biblical priority order (2Cor 9:12 - *What you do to serve others not only provides for the needs of God's people, but also produces more and more prayers of thanksgiving to God*).

There are great needs within our own church and partner organizations – individuals who are battling to make ends meet. Imagine the joy and thanksgiving to God if within our church we can show the Christian characteristics described in Acts 2 (vs. 44 - 47). Also note the wonderful blessings that come from giving, as seen in 2 Corinthians 8 (vs.1 - 13), and 2 Corinthians 9 (vs: 6 - 13).

Consider the following examples of 'Resources' and 'Needs'. Please feel free to contact Bev (bev@applesofgold.org.za; 0835542052) if you are willing to help in any way, or please share your need. The information will be held in strict confidence and our pastors and elders will endeavour to liaise between the helpers and the needy.

Resources	Needs
Job offers	A job
Expertise Help (e.g. Skills – medical, domestic, repairs, care ...)	Someone to mend things, help around the house, maintain the house or garden, skills training
Goods to give (especially clothes, blankets, furniture, food...)	Lack of clothes, food, shelter
Accommodation	A place to sleep
Time – to care (visit: elderly / sick/ singles/ bereaved/ divorced...)	Housebound, elderly, frail, sick, depressed, lonely
Your resource....	Your need...

## Scripture References

### **Acts 2: 44 - 47**

All the believers kept meeting together, and they shared everything with each other. From time to time, they sold their property and other possessions and distributed the money to anyone who needed it.

The believers had a single purpose and went to the temple every day. They were joyful and humble as they ate at each other's homes and shared their food.

At the same time, they praised God and had the good will of all the people. Every day the Lord saved people, and they were added to the group.

### **2 Corinthians 8: 1 - 6**

Brothers and sisters, we want you to know how God showed his kindness to the churches in the province of Macedonia.

While they were being severely tested by suffering, their overflowing joy, along with their extreme poverty, has made them even more generous.

I assure you that by their own free will they have given all they could, even more than they could afford. They made an appeal to us, begging us to let them participate in the ministry of God's kindness to his holy people in Jerusalem.

They did more than we had expected. First, they gave themselves to the Lord and to us, since this was God's will.

This led us to urge Titus to finish his work of God's kindness among you in the same way as he had already started it.

### **2 Corinthians 8: 7 - 15**

Indeed, the more your faith, your ability to speak, your knowledge, your dedication, and your love for us increase, the more we want you to participate in this work of God's kindness. I'm not commanding you, but I'm testing how genuine your love is by pointing out the dedication of others.

You know about the kindness of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was rich, yet for your sake he became poor in order to make you rich through his poverty.

I'm giving you my opinion because it will be helpful to you.

Last year you were not only willing to take a collection but had already started to do it.

So finish what you began to do. Then your willingness will be matched by what you accomplish with whatever contributions you have. Since you are willing to do this, remember that people are accepted if they give what they are able to give. God doesn't ask for what they don't have.

I don't mean that others should have relief while you have hardship. Rather, it's a matter of striking a balance.

At the present time, your surplus fills their need so that their surplus may fill your need. In this way things balance out.

This is what Scripture says: "Those who had gathered a lot didn't have too much, and those who gathered a little didn't have too little."

**What you do to serve others not only provides for the needs of God's people, but also produces more and more prayers of thanksgiving to God.**



# PHOTO

## 2007 CHURCH GETAWAY

*"The Amazing Race, Magaliesberg Leg"*  
*The teams:*



*Qatna*



*Megiddo*



*Kadesh*

# ALBUM



*Hazor*



*Joppa*



*Rabbah*

*"Loving God,  
Loving each other"*

*(photos by Leon)*





*Tamar*



*Ashdod*



*Aleppo*



*Ziglag*



*Arnold Mol, sharing God's Word*



*Gareth commentating on the amazing race event*





*Hazor's team (Faster Thên Lazors) in second place*



*We are both sweet and know it ☺*



*Mark looking relaxed*



*Pastor Charles, still aiming straight*



*Andre with a hot mug of erm...Ricoffy*



*Two Lowes deep in thought*



*"Can't think of a nicer way to spend an afternoon!"*

Love each other  
As Christ loved you





Kevin during a talk by Arnold Mol



Jamie: "I'll need to give this some thought"



Paul making light work of the double bars



Dr Chris with his team banner



Kadesh versus Ashdod... who will win?



Ashdod passes on the inside



Thanks Eugene for organising the weekend! Excellent job.



\*cough\* so much for everyone holding on to the rope...  
result: a tie! Or perhaps an untie?





*Worship the Lord with gladness;  
Come before Him with joyful songs.  
Know that the Lord is God.  
It is He who made us, and we are His;*





### **Christian One-Liners!**

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.

Stop griping about your church; if it was perfect, you wouldn't fit in!

If the church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has.

God Himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you?

Some minds are like concrete thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

Peace starts with a smile.

A lot of church members who are singing "Standing on the Promises" are just sitting on the premises.

We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

Be ye fishers of men. You catch them - He'll clean them.

Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

Don't wait for 6 strong men to take you to church.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

God grades on the cross, not the curve.

God loves everyone, but probably prefers "fruits of the spirit" over "religious nuts!"

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

He who angers you, controls you!

If God is your Co-pilot - swap seats!

Don't give God instructions -- just report for duty!

The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.

The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.

We don't change the message, the message changes us.

You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him.





# WOMEN'S VALUE

Margie Martin

**D**ear Readers,

Well this is the first of the new quarterly "Life at Central". Does this issue also marks the official start of winter? They - whoever *they* are - say that it is summer in November, December and January; autumn in February, March and April, and so now it is winter. In Pretoria, I think we have yet another month of autumn before the really cold weather sets in. Talking of winter, a special thanks to all who have donated money for blankets and also to those who still will. I think this project will continue till at least the end of May, or early June. Many cold people will benefit from your generosity and it gives a "warm" feeling, to give, to someone else in need.

This time of year also marks Mother's Day and Father's Day and so I include two readings for your enjoyment, be you a Mom or a Dad, Parenting is a special responsibility given by God to some of us. There are many good books on the subject. Practical books abound. I can recommend any by James Dobson. Spiritually, I think the very best book on the market, is "Shepherding a Child's Heart" by Ted Tripp. This book should be read at least once by every Christian parent, and also every Christian Grandparent! Remember, that as parents, you are showing your child what the parent heart of God is like! The responsibility is HUGE!

Keep warm this winter. Be on fire with enthusiasm, and especially in your relationship with the Lord.

God Bless you all.  
- Margie

## Mother's Day.

A woman, renewing her driver's license at the Transport Office, was asked to state her occupation. She hesitated, uncertain how to classify herself.

"What I mean is," explained the clerk, "do you have a job or are you just a ....?"

"Of course I have a job," she snapped. "I'm a Mom,"

"We don't list Mom as an occupation.... 'housewife' covers it," said the clerk emphatically."

One time I found myself in the same situation, this time at our local police station. The clerk was obviously a career woman, poised, efficient, and possessed of a high sounding title, like "Official Interrogator" or "Town Registrar."

"What is your occupation?" she probed.

What made me say it, I do not know.... the words simply popped out....

"I'm a Research Associate in the field of Child Development and Human Relations."...

The clerk paused, pen frozen in midair, and looked up as though she had not heard right. I repeated the title slowly, emphasizing the most significant words..



Then, I stared with wonder as my pronouncement was written in bold, black ink on the official questionnaire!

"Might I ask," said the clerk with new interest, "just what you do in your field?"

Coolly, without any trace of fluster in my voice, I heard myself reply, "I have a continuing programme of research, (what mother doesn't), in the laboratory and in the field," (normally I would have said indoors and outside.) I'm working for my Masters, (the whole jolly family), and already have four credits, (all daughters).

Of course the job is one of the most demanding in the humanities, (any mother care to disagree?) and I often work 18 hours a day (24 is more like it)

But the job is more challenging than most run-of-the-mill careers, and the rewards are more of satisfaction than just money.

There was an increasing note of respect in the girl's voice as she completed the form, stood up, and ..personally ushered me to the door!

When I got home, buoyed up by my glamorous career, I was greeted by my Lab Assistants – ages 10, 7 and 3. Upstairs, I could hear our new experimental model, (a six month old baby), in the child development programme, testing out a new vocal pattern. I felt I had triumphed over bureaucracy! I had gone on the official records, as someone more distinguished and indispensable to mankind than "just another Mom".

Motherhood. What a glorious career! Especially when there is a title on the door.

Does this make grandmothers "Senior Research Associates" in the field of "Child Development and Human Relations", and Great-Grandmothers "Executive Senior Research Associates"? I think so!!! I also think it makes Aunts and Fellow Sisters in the Lord "Associate Research Assistants." From the internet

## Fathers Day.

The Tuba player played his last note, as the percussion section tapped out their last rhythm. Then in one motion of the arm and snap of the wrist, the conductor brought the entire concert band to a perfect ending. As I sat in the audience, out of the corner of my eye, a man in the front row of the audience caught my attention. The man leaped out of his chair, and began clapping and whistling. He had his gaze fixed on one of the players in the band. His delight in the band, and particularly one person, was apparent to all. Before you knew it, another person, and another person stood up from their own chairs and gave the band a standing ovation. The smiles and delight on the audience's faces were enough to light up a midnight sky. I found myself swept up in the excitement and I enthusiastically joined in. This was no ordinary applause: this was a standing ovation on steroids! You would think we were an audience in a concert hall in New York City. The truth is we





were a bunch of parents at a small town high school in the heartland of America delighting in our kids at their year-end band concert. And while the band was very good, I have a feeling that if the band had played Yankee Doodle Dandy with kazoos and only got every other note right, we would still have given the group a standing ovation.

The image of the dad leaping to his feet, giving his child the standing “O” is embedded in my mind. Like many of you, I have been blessed to have a Dad who has given me standing ovations throughout my entire life. For everything from my first job, to my first home, to my first Kid, my Dad has been there cheering me on. For that I am truly grateful, and at this time of the year it is a privilege to return the applause to my Dad and give him a standing ovation as well.

For some of us though, the truth is that we may not have had a dad that was cheering us on at all our events, or maybe he didn’t even show up to the band concert to begin with. Let me offer you some encouragement by finishing my story about the band concert. Well, right next to that enthusiastic Dad who started the standing ovation was an empty chair. My first thought was that “God could be sitting in that chair.” He is leaping to His feet and giving applause and encouragement. He is “Emmanuel, God with us” (Matt. 1:23. He is with us at band concerts, He is with us when we wake up, He is with us when we sleep, and He is with us when other people are not. He delights over you, He rejoices in you, and He wants to spend eternity with you. And for all who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, we can all look forward to receiving the standing “O” from our Heavenly Father when we get to Heaven and He says, “Well done thou good and faithful servant.”

Dayspring

## **KINGS RUBIES**

### **PROGRAMME FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR.**

19<sup>th</sup> May “I am the Light of the World”

Carol/Sharon

23<sup>rd</sup> June “I am the Way to Life” Cliff Vick. ( we join with the men )

(Note: Change of Date – We will have a combined meeting with MANDATE. We will be catering for breakfast.)

21<sup>st</sup> July “I am the Thirst Quencher” Kathy Laughton.

18<sup>th</sup> August “I am the True Vine” Pearl Grunewald. (President of SABWD.)

1<sup>st</sup> September Evangelistic Spring Tea

(Details to follow) Terry Rae speaker.

20<sup>th</sup> October “I am the Conqueror of Death” Michelle Simpson.

30<sup>th</sup> June. A one day Mentoring Retreat will be held for those people who wish to become Mentors. Give your Name to Carol if you wish to attend. More detail later.

4<sup>th</sup> August Mothers and Daughters Programme will be run, as an extra, by Patricia and Emma Ihlenfeldt. More details later, but plan to be there

Our Blanket project is in full swing. Please donate towards it. Blankets are being bought (at least 100 to date) at R30.00 each. Ongoing till end of June.

Profit on Recipe books will be going towards new curtains for the offices in front of the Church. There are still MANY recipe books for sale. HELP PLEASE!!!!

## **DENOMINATIONAL DIARY**

### **BNAWD**

9<sup>th</sup> June A.G.M. Nancefield Church

9<sup>th</sup> Aug Breakfast Birchwood Church

10<sup>th</sup> November Christmas Meeting at Florida Church.

### **SABWD**

18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> May Ladies Retreat at Skogheim near Port Shepstone. Cost R770.00

10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> September BWD Week of Prayer

21<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> September B.U. Assembly

5<sup>th</sup> November – Baptist Women’s World Day of Prayer.

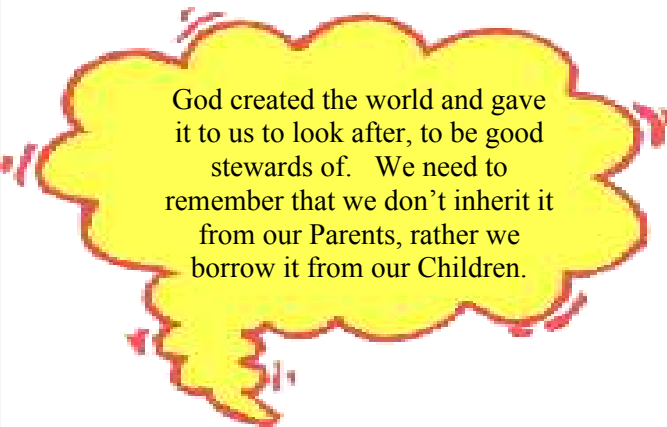
## **Think about this!**

An old Cherokee is teaching his Grandson about life. “A fight is going on inside me.” He said to the boy. “It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil – he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego. The other is good. He is joy, peace, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, compassion, empathy, benevolence, generosity, truth, and faith. This same fight is going on inside of you – and inside every other person too.” The grandson thought about it for a moment and then asked his grandfather, “Which wolf will win?” The old Cherokee simply replied, “The one you feed.”

Author unknown.

## **Quote to Ponder**

*From the Internet.\_\_\_\_*



God created the world and gave it to us to look after, to be good stewards of. We need to remember that we don’t inherit it from our Parents, rather we borrow it from our Children.



## **A WORD (or 2) FROM CAROL**

### *Dear Friends*

What a tremendous weekend we have had at our church family getaway. It was wonderful to be fed from the Word of God with such practical and 'do-able' instruction, but it was also great to see the fellowship happening all around - young and 'senior' talking and playing; new friends being made; fun and laughter; sharing and caring. We are so privileged to be part of God's family. Thank you to all who took part in organizing this retreat.

Now, I would like to expand a little on our Mentoring Retreat as well as our Mothers and Daughters 'time-out'.

### **30<sup>th</sup> June - Mentoring Retreat**

This is to take the form of a training day for any women who would like to become a mentor to another lady within Central Baptist. Please ladies, don't shy away from this and think you are unable to be a mentor. We will do our best to pair you up with somebody who has similar interests and who needs your input into her life. You do not have to be a professional counselor or a psychologist but you DO need to love the Lord and have a desire to be used of God to help another grow in Christ. You may be a mentor as well as a 'mentoree' so if you feel you still need mentoring yourself, now is one time you can have your cake and eat it. Mentoring is a Biblical concept and I am convinced of this ministry and would encourage as many women as possible to become a part of it. The retreat will take place at Bethesda, Hammanskraal. We will begin the day with muffins, have a scrumptious brunch and a delicious low-calorie afternoon tea. Not only will we eat, but in between we will receive training on what being a mentor involves. Watch your bulletins for the details. In the mean time, if you need more information you can speak to Lois Mixon, Sharon Kruger or myself.

### **4<sup>th</sup> August - Mothers and Daughters 'Time-Out'**

More information about this day will follow, but for now this is to answer the questions: Who can come? What is this all about? Why should I come?

This 'time-out' is designed for mothers with teenage daughters, so both mothers and their daughters are encouraged to attend.

Being a teenage girl today is quite different to being a teenage girl when your mother was a teenager isn't that so teenagers? Why doesn't your mother understand where

you are coming from? Why can't your mother 'butt' out of your life? Why must she always think she has an answer for everything? Why must she 'nag' me so much? Why does she always complain about how I dress? Why are there so many rules in our house?

Being a mother of a teenager is more challenging than being put on the Anaconda at Gold Reef City with a cup of tea, and told to have the same amount of tea in your cup when you get to the end of the ride! Why is my daughter so moody? Why doesn't she let me into her life? Why must she always dress so sloppily? Why can't she just respect and obey the rules of our home? Why does she choose those friends? What is she doing on that cell phone all day and night?

Are these maybe some of the questions you are asking? Well this is what our seminar is going to be all about. We pray that the opportunity will be given for both mother and daughter to express in a non-threatening environment just some of their concerns and frustrations.

I would like to invite all mums and teenage girls. There's little more wonderful than a great relationship between a mum and a daughter, you CAN experience this. Even if you already share a great relationship as mother and daughter, you will still learn something from our programme. Daughter, invite your mum along, mum invite your daughter to join you – that's a challenge in itself – come on I dare you!!!!

This was more than a word or two from me but I trust that you will take up these opportunities – all so that we can spur one another on to more holy living.

May you know the love of God, the peace of God and the guidance of God in your life.

*Luv Carol*





# SNAPSHOTS FROM ABBA HOUSE



By Miriam Cain

Sometimes at ABBA House we see little personalities developing, and it's fascinating to watch and wonder what is happening in their little heads! There was a six-week difference in age between three of our babies, two girls and a boy. The boy was the youngest and had come in later, so he was already 3 months old when he arrived. The natural assumption might be that the two girls would play together most and the boy would be more on his own, or maybe that they would form a group of three. But what happened was that the boy and one of the girls bonded together, and the other played on her own. The two were together constantly; they learned to sit together, then they learned to crawl together, then they crawled to find each other if they were not in the same room. On one occasion, one was in bed and the other was on the floor and cried when the one in bed went to sleep! When the little girl was adopted, he missed her badly. It just wasn't the same in the Nursery! And it didn't work so well to play with the other little girl. This little boy is decidedly cute, and standing now, almost walking and leaving soon. We hope that the two sets of adoptive parents will become friends so that the babies can continue their friendship!

## SPECIAL ADOPTIVE PARENTS

A little while ago we had a very special visit from a boy and his Dad. He was with us as a baby six years ago and they came back to visit us so that he could meet us again and learn about his heritage. It's lovely to have 'our children' coming back to visit. He is so tall, and the 'theory' is that he received his height from both his biological and his adoptive Dad!



Aren't Our Kids Cute?!



*Photo above: Nnuku and Thandi practise CPR during our week of staff training. It was very specific to our work in the Nursery, and we learned a lot and had many laughs! The staff participated fully and afterwards one commented: "Nobody will take my education from me, it's mine alone forever!" I'm sure she will share it, but I wondered how many of us simply take our education for granted. The thought had never occurred to me that education is not something that can easily be stolen. That makes it a worthwhile investment!*

We recently placed another little boy with large brown eyes and a ready smile with his adoptive family. However, this one has a major problem with his heart and needs an operation soon. We are so thankful that there were parents willing to take him with all the problems and risks. Please pray for him and his family: that they will have the strength to endure what is likely to be a difficult time ahead, and that the operation will go well and that this baby will thrive!

***Thank you for praying and sharing in this ministry to  
Love Babies in Need!***



Best Friends!



# Where is Doug Marshall these days?



I'm working for MEDAIR, a Swiss nongovernmental organization (NGO), with the mission to respond to human suffering in a variety of disaster situations.

I have been working in Medair's Southern Sudan programme since May 2006 and fill the role of Water and Sanitation Project Manager. We drill boreholes, install rapidly deployable emergency water treatment systems and teach improved hygiene, amongst many other things. Medair is also a medical NGO (who would have thought?). Medair started out of a joint venture with YWAM and MAF in the late 80s and has progressed steadily into a small, yet formidable organization! We are often asked: 'What planes do you operate?' We don't operate planes, but we are often airborne, as we use MAF frequently to do our trips. Teams spend 8 weeks at a time in the field. I am based in Lokichoggio, in the North West corner of Kenya.

Sudan has been embroiled in wars for centuries, some tribal, and some regional. The politics of east Africa is complex and Sudan plays a large part. A peace agreement currently exists, it is two years old. Oil is a major resource in Sudan and is probably the resource that will bring much more violence and strife. Uranium is also present.

Part of Medair's mandate is to work in, and serve the forgotten crises and areas of a war torn or natural disaster prone country or region. The Upper Nile state is such a place in Sudan. It borders the demarcation line between North and South, and has significant oils fields. It has very low access to health care and safe water. Children are malnourished and people across the country suffer frequently from acute watery diarrhoea, cholera and numerous other outbreaks, presently meningitis.

The religious divide: the North is Islamic, living under *sharia* law, the South is combination Christian and animist, although depth of Christianity is lacking. Sudan has seen desperate famine, especially 1984-5, and in the period since then, it is believed that 2 million people have been killed in fighting. Religion, power play and oil all contribute to this rather complex emergency. Please pray for Sudan, for its thorough spiritual liberation, through out!

I would like to encourage anyone over the age of 25 to seriously consider how you could be serving the poor, (anywhere in the world), with Medair. If any one is considering mission, even though Medair is not a mission agency, it is a great place to cut your teeth in very similar conditions, physical, emotional and spiritual. In other words: It's good preparation! Take a look at [www.medair.org](http://www.medair.org)

## Sudan Quick Facts

Population of the country	33,610,000
GDP per capita (USD)	1,171
Life expectancy (years) m/f	57/62
Child mortality (per 1,000) m/f	95/90



The minister had travelled from Birmingham to London to attend to the details of a new banner that was being made for his church. On his arrival he discovered that he had lost the piece of paper with all the details. He sent his wife a telegram asking her to send the specifications by return.

When the answer arrived at the Post Office the shocked postmistress read: "Unto us a child is born. Eight feet long. Three feet wide. Assorted colours."



# Missions Update



By Gisela Nicholson



## Thelma Mitford-Barberton, Operation Mobilisation Pretoria

### Finding God

Thelma's parents, always searching for the truth how to get to God, had become involved with the Anthroposophical Society. When they moved to Grahamstown, they were asked, "which church (of its 52 churches) do you belong to?" "The 53<sup>rd</sup>!" Being an ordained priest in the *Liberal Catholic Church (LCC)*, her father began to hold services in their home. Someone asked him, "is this not a heretical church?" this prompted her father to compare the LCC's teachings with the Bible, and eventually to leave the LCC. Now her parents were searching again – and then got saved in a meeting of Jackie Pullinger (the missionary to Hong Kong). Their children reacted angrily.

Thelma studied music and became interested in music therapy. A friend told her of the pioneer of this therapy, an elderly man in his 80s living in South Germany. Thelma went to Germany and studied with him. She soon changed to curative education,

which included working with a group of socially handicapped children. Her mother had sent her her Bible that she had left

behind, and some books by Dr. Kurt Koch. She began to compare the books by Rudolf Steiner (founder of Anthroposophy) that she had to study, with Biblical teaching and consequently attended fewer and fewer of the lectures.

Her mother phoned to tell her that her brother had tried to commit suicide, but her lecturers offered only dismissive answers to her questions. She then walked on foot some distance over a mountain to Tübingen to find that Christian author and met Prof. Peter Beyerhaus. He gave her books on Anthroposophy and Christianity and, on reading them she realized she had to make a choice. One of her father's weekly letters contained drawings depicting on the one side, a ladder with people climbing up but then falling off and, on the other side, a basket being held by strings in a hand and a little figure busy climbing into it. Thelma asked one of her lecturers which of the two he would choose to get to heaven. He said 'the ladder'. But she knew it was the basket into which she must climb. This she sees as her actual decision for Christ.

Shortly after this she returned to South Africa for her sister's wedding. In 1992, she moved to Stellenbosch with her brother, where she got a job teaching music.

### Joining Operation Mobilisation (OM)

One weekend her brother went with his Bible study group on a camp and on his return told her, "an organization is looking for volunteers to organize a conference in Wellington and I will support you if you volunteer to help them". Thelma volunteered – this was the *Love Southern Africa 1993 Conference*. She was especially impressed by a large group of women who came to do the catering. They were the female staff component of the *Doulos*, which was laid up for several months in Cape Town for repairs and electrical refits.

During the conference, both Francois Vosloo and Karel van Heerden asked her to join OM to organize short-term outreaches. She joined OM in September 1993 and organized short-term outreaches to countries in Southern Africa for five years. This also involved taking teams on outreaches to Mozambique.

Then she suffered burnout, which took two years to overcome. Burnout happens when one has expectations and goals that are impossible to reach. At this time her boss, Christopher Agenbag, left OM. He arranged for her to work with Francois Vosloo. Due to the burnout she stayed at home for three months; then very



gradually returned to the office. She was given jobs she could do at home and which helped her to stay connected to OM. Typing the OM Constitution, so that it could be stored electronically, especially convinced her that God wanted her to stay with OM.

Francois, who is coordinator of ministries for the whole of Southern Africa, has to do a lot of travelling. Thelma stays in the office as anchor person. She appreciates that Francois is multi-gifted, which means that she gets to do a lot of different things. Apart from doing the bookkeeping for the teams in Mozambique, Angola and for her own office team, she helps with travel arrangements, organizes retreats and conferences, etc. In May she is due to travel to Angola with Francois and five others to encourage the team there.

## Financial Needs

An elderly gentleman from the USA 'adopted' her when she joined OM after the Wellington Conference. He got others in the US to support her and raised additional funds whenever he felt she had a special need – e.g. to attend one of the *Urbana* conferences in the USA, or to acquire a sturdy vehicle for her trips to Mozambique, etc. But a few years ago he passed away at age 96, and with him almost all of her US support.

OM policy is that each team member raises his/her own support to cover living expenses as well as the costs of ministry (incl. travel). Each team forms a pool to share whatever funds are raised by the individual members. Thelma has not been able to find a sufficient number of supporters in South Africa to replace the income she received from the US. She is in a pool with Francois Vosloo. At present she only receives enough funds to cover a third of her normal needs. This means that Francois is subsidizing her from the support he receives himself, which leaves the team short of money to cover all their monthly expenses.

There is thus an urgent need for Thelma to raise enough funds to bring up her share in the pool to 100%, meaning she needs to find about R4000 additional monthly income. To this end Central and the Missions Ministry Committee are assisting her to establish a support group in the church. In addition, the May thank-offering is designated to provide her with a good financial basis for at least a few months.

## Please Pray –

- **That a sufficient number of church members may be prompted by the Lord to support her and to form a support group**
- **For God's wisdom and grace and the capacity to work with Francois, that she will not feel overwhelmed.**

## TEDDY – A STORY

As she stood in front of her 5th grade class on the very first day of school, she told the children an untruth. Like most teachers, she looked at her students and said that she loved them all the same. However, that was impossible, because there in the front row, slumped in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy Stoddard.

Mrs. Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed that he did not play well with the other children, that his clothes were messy and that he constantly needed a bath. In addition, Teddy could be unpleasant. It got to the point where Mrs. Thompson would actually take delight in marking his papers with a broad red pen, making bold X's and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers.

At the school where Mrs. Thompson taught, she was required to review each child's past records and she put Teddy's off until last. However, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise.

Teddy's first grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners... He is a joy to be around.."

His second grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student, well liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother has a terminal illness and life at home must be a struggle."

His third grade teacher wrote, "His mother's death has been hard on him. He tries to do his best, but his father doesn't show much interest, and his home life will soon affect him if some steps aren't taken."

Teddy's fourth grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school. He doesn't have many friends and he sometimes sleeps in class."

By now, Mrs. Thompson realized the problem and she was ashamed of herself. She felt even worse when her students brought her Christmas presents, wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's. His present was clumsily wrapped in the heavy brown paper that he got from a grocery bag. Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents. Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing, and a bottle that was one-quarter full of perfume. But she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed how pretty the bracelet was, putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist. Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, "Mrs. Thompson, today you smelled just like my Mom used to."

After the children left, she cried for at least an hour. On that very day, she quit teaching reading, writing and arithmetic. Instead, she began to teach children. Mrs. Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded. By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest children in the class and, despite

her lie that she would love all the children the same, Teddy became one of her "teacher's pets."

A year later, she found a note under her door, from Teddy, telling her that she was the best teacher he ever had in his whole life.

Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote that he had finished high school, third in his class, and she was still the best teacher he ever had in life.

Four years after that, she got another letter, saying that while things had been tough at times, he'd stayed in school, had stuck with it, and would soon graduate from college with the highest of honours. He assured Mrs. Thompson that she was still the best and favourite teacher he had ever had in his whole life.

Then four more years passed and yet another letter came. This time he explained that after he got his bachelor's degree, he decided to go a little further. The letter explained that she was still the best and favourite teacher he ever had. But now his name was a little longer.... The letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, MD.

The story does not end there. You see, there was yet another

that spring. Teddy said he had met this girl and was going to be married. He explained that his father had died a couple of years ago and he was wondering if Mrs. Thompson might agree to sit at the wedding in the place that was usually reserved for the mother of the groom. Of course, Mrs. Thompson did. And guess what? She wore that bracelet, the one with several rhinestones missing. Moreover, she made sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together.

They hugged each other, and Dr. Stoddard whispered in Mrs. Thompson's ear, "Thank you Mrs. Thompson for believing in me. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference"

Mrs. Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back She said, "Teddy, you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know how to teach until I met you."

(Teddy Stoddard is a doctor. at Iowa Methodist in Des Moines that has the Stoddard Cancer Wing.)

**Try to make a difference in someone's life today.**


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ett  
er

## Kids Bible Wordsearch

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


## Animals in The Bible

### Puzzle # 1




- BEAR
- CAMEL
- DONKEY
- GAZELLE
- GOAT
- HART
- HORSE
- IBEX
- JACKAL

J	Q	D	B	I	U	D	P	F	M	Z	S	I
L	A	P	B	A	R	T	M	N	O	A	H	N
H	C	E	E	T	R	S	P	C	L	L	L	I
O	X	U	A	Y	T	E	L	L	E	Z	A	G
B	H	O	R	S	E	R	G	M	O	A	K	H
X	G	E	J	H	R	K	A	S	P	K	C	T
Q	X	S	S	C	O	C	N	H	A	I	A	H
K	T	R	E	U	N	I	C	O	R	N	J	A
B	R	R	Y	N	O	E	R	T	D	Q	M	W
C	S	J	X	J	I	M	S	M	M	O	L	K
I	F	Z	P	F	L	O	W	U	E	K	X	J
E	F	C	J	R	K	W	F	U	M	N	T	E
Q	L	B	W	V	N	M	J	N	Y	O	C	P



- LEOPARD
- LION
- MOLE
- MOUSE
- NIGHTHAWK
- OSTRICH
- SHEEP
- UNICORN
- WOLF



<http://biblewordgames.com>

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# UNDER ATTACK

By Noel C. Durrheim

## ***“CRIME? – NO CRISIS!”***

**I**stvan Tatai, Pastor of the Reformatus Church in Hatvan, Hungary, introduced the visiting speaker to his congregation as follows; “Our speaker tonight is brother Noel from Del Africa (South Africa), where they are playing the “Herbie World Cup”! I had difficulty in keeping a straight face, as visions of Volkswagen beetles – “Herbie” of movie fame and his friends, scurrying around a playing field, flashed through my mind! (He was of course referring to the Rugby World Cup in mid 1995, which was won decisively by the Springboks). The euphoria evoked by the historic picture of Madiba (President Nelson Mandela), wearing Springbok colours and Francois Pienaar, Captain of the SA Rugby Team, with their hands clasped, as Francois held aloft the much coveted trophy, made newspaper headlines around the world.



This event, as well as the exciting prospect of the new democracy in South Africa, which it symbolized, was alluded to by Anton Goosen, the well known South African composer and singer, who was recently brutally assaulted by armed robbers on his small-holding, situated near the Hartebeespoort Dam. This dream has unfortunately been shattered by the spirit of anarchy, which has spread mayhem and destruction through the untimely death of tens of thousands of our citizens and trauma of countless families and friends.

An enormous amount of time and effort was devoted to drafting a new Constitution. This one hundred and seventy eight-page document provides, inter alia, for the safeguarding of the rights of all our citizens. Whilst this Constitution has been hailed as a “model”, which can be emulated by other emerging nations, the application of the principles contained

therein has often been flawed, in that the “rights” of criminals/miscreants often take precedence over those of law-abiding citizens. Ordinary citizens are consequently forced to take refuge behind high walls topped by electric fences and CCTV, whilst would be criminals are free to roam the highways and by-ways.

The erosion of the moral fibre of our society is also evidenced by the blatant corruption, which extends from high-ranking government officials and prominent members of society, down to those at grass-root level. It is disturbing to note that on the rare occasions when such miscreants are brought to trial, sentences that are handed down often amount to little more than a slap on the wrist. Furthermore, such sentences are often reduced substantially and on being discharged from prison, these criminals are given a heroes welcome by their supporters.

There is no doubt that the attitude of leaders in Government, who seem to turn a blind eye to the seriousness of crime in our land by denying its reality, has spawned deficiencies in law-enforcement, judicial system and correctional services. The rising tide of concern voiced by business leaders and citizens, who have felt the impact of the unacceptable levels of crime in our land, seem to fall on deaf ears. The Pretoria News recently published a photograph of thirty victims of violent crime, pushing wheelbarrows filled, in total, with 32000 letters, each addressed to the President, calling for action against crime, to his office at the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

The following **statistics for 2006**, quoted by First National Bank, when launching their advertising campaign against crime – which they incidentally were forced to abandon due to pressure being exercised against them – (you don’t have to be overly smart to guess from what quarter this came), make shocking reading:

- **MURDERS** - 18528 (I.e. more than 50 people a day!) (This is the highest murder rate of all the countries in the world!)
- **RAPES** - 54926 (i.e. 1 rape every 10 minutes!)
- **VIOLENT ROBBERIES** - 119726 (1 case every 4 minutes)

Attempts to rationalize the level of violent crime on socio-economic grounds is rejected, because it is based on the Humanist worldview, which postulates that any evil manifested in man is really caused by a less than perfect environment. (The Bible, on the other hand, repeatedly identifies the sinfulness of man as being the root of the problem).

President Mbeki, in replying to the two-day debate of his State of the Nation address in Parliament, on the issue of crime, stated inter alia, “---we will continue to act against crime as decisively as we have sought to do throughout the years ---“. This epitomizes the fact that the politicians do not have a solution to the violent crime, which is engulfing our country!

## What strategy can we adopt to meet this onslaught?

- Some would suggest, “**Meet force with force**” – this could lead to further loss of life.
- Still others would opt to **leave the country**, thus swelling the considerable number of folk who have taken this course in their search for a safe haven.

About thirty years ago, when many people were emigrating because of the turmoil in the country, Pastor Donald Mac Pherson asked the congregation, “Are you planning to join the P.F.P.? (The opposition party in Parliament at that time was the Progressive Federal Party – P.F.P.). He hastened to clarify his statement by saying, “Are you **Packing For Perth?**” He asked Christians to seek God’s will for their future before making a decision and concluded, “**There is no safer place than to be in the centre of God’s will!**”

It is always advisable to determine who your opponent is, before devising a strategy for a battle plan. The fact of the matter is that our country is not under attack by a human foe, but is facing a spiritual onslaught emanating from demonic forces. The Apostle Paul put it succinctly, “**FOR WE ARE NOT FIGHTING AGAINST PEOPLE MADE OF FLESH AND BLOOD BUT AGAINST PERSONS WITHOUT BODIES – THE EVIL RULERS OF THE UNSEEN WORLD, THOSE MIGHTY SATANIC BEINGS AND GREAT EVIL PRINCES OF DARKNESS WHO RULE THIS WORLD AND AGAINST HUGE NUMBERS OF WICKED SPIRITS IN THE SPIRIT WORLD.**” (Eph 6:12)

- The secret for countering and overcoming these demonic forces is to **PUT ON ALL OF GOD’S ARMOUR**. (Eph 6:12) viz,  
*Truth, Integrity and Moral Rectitude, Spreading the Good News of Peace with God, Shield of Saving Faith, Helmet of Salvation, Word of God and Prayer.*

- The only source of hope for South Africa’s future lies in **God’s Intervention**.

The conditions for this to take place are spelt out clearly in 2 Chron: 7:14

***“IF MY PEOPLE, WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, SHALL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY, AND SEEK MY FACE AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS; THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN, AND WILL HEAL THEIR LAND.”***

Let us therefore rise to the challenge to *intercede for our country and all who are in positions of authority*, as individuals, families, small groups, churches and communities, as we trust God to send revival to our land, assured of the fact that:

***“OVERWHELMING VICTORY IS OURS THROUGH CHRIST WHO LOVED US ENOUGH TO DIE FOR US!”***

(Rom 8:37)



**NOTE:** Subsequent to the initial publication of this article in March, it is heartening to report that a prayer/action initiative has been launched to focus prayer on Sunnyside, Pretoria. This is a partnership of churches situated in this area in collaboration with the SAPS Sunnyside.

Please pay attention to the Church Bulletin, so that you can participate in the forthcoming events:

Tentative dates:  
**19 May 2007 Prayer for Sunnyside.**  
**20 May 2007 National Day of Prayer against crime.**  
**27 May 2007 Global Day of Prayer.**

3/2007



# SPRING (BAHOR)

## IN TAJIKISTAN

- By Lauren -

*It's* goodbye to snow...



and ice...



And hello to Spring!



With Spring comes the celebration of Navruz (NewDay)



and more celebrations (a school celebration with the Spring queen and king)



and Buzkashi (men on horseback fighting over a goat carcass to take it to the goals - often there are good prizes)





and Sumalak (Ground Wheat Germ and other ingredients cooked for about 18 hours in a 100L cauldron)



My dad came out with my Mom, at the same time as the Spring Blossoms came out



I was so privileged to have my parents here for a week and they thoroughly enjoyed it. Welcome Mom and Dad!



We went to three different bazaars together



We went to Hisor with its ancient Doors and visited the Museum of the Tajik Way of Life



We went hiking in the Varzob Valley next to the River





and passed some donkeys



and admired the beautiful scenery



We went to a village wedding



My parents danced and my mom was given 3 scarves and my dad was given 3 purple pieces of cloth tied around his waist for being there as guests, and for dancing



We visited Friends



We had friends over for supper and a friend taught me how to make mantu (pastry with meat or pumpkin inside, steamed then served with onions and sour cream)



and said goodbye after a lovely week!



#### A LETTER FROM AN APPRECIATIVE STUDENT

**I** remember walking around campus, feeling so insignificant, feeling isolated from the surroundings and activities around me. I was far away from home for the first time in my life, in a country where I knew no one, except for the person who met me at the airport. Being a foreigner in a country is sometimes living close to despair, being confused and hurt, being overwhelmed and scared, feeling different and longing for home. It may mean that you can't go home during the holidays because it is too expensive and home is too far away. It means not being able to identify with people's experiences sometimes. It means not being able to understand when people are conversing around you.

The excellent thing about being a foreigner is the opportunity to learn new things - new facts, lifestyles, cultures, and stories. If the natives of the country welcome you and draw you in, you feel safe - you have a rock to hang onto. No matter how bad things get, there's someone there who cares. The opportunity to be around natives of a country dispels false beliefs you may have had, and opens your eyes to the wonders of the country you are in. It also gives you an opportunity to share - share your stories, your culture, and your country.

It's an exchange that changes the lives of both the native and the foreigner. But it is only possible because of that smile, that openness that allows a foreigner to stop for a while, and spend some time with a native of a country. I have been privileged to meet some wonderful people at Central, who have made my stay here in Pretoria much easier and have given me moral support when I needed it. I hope that other foreigners who come after me will also receive such a loving and friendly welcome.

#### ***IF AND WHEN.....***

If one day you feel the world is upon your shoulders  
And that no one is there by your side,  
And the sun does not want to rise on your horizons  
Don't give up, keep your head up.  
The sun will shine and warm your broken heart.  
The 'Great I AM' will always be there for you.

Tears will flow; your heart will be broken several times  
But the One above every ordeal is always at hand,  
To offer Healing, Love and Prosperity.  
Call upon His name all things will make sense.  
If only you believe and trust His word.

If the unbearable situations become insurmountable,  
If those mountains that you have been climbing,  
Can't be conquered don't lose hope,  
Remember that God is still the one who conquers everything.  
Trust, Pray, seek Him and wait upon the Lord  
To deliver what He has promised.

Sometimes you'll feel that things take time to be granted,  
God knows your needs and your frustrations.  
Put your trust in God and in Him alone  
Because He knows what He is doing in His own time.

If and when the devil tempts you to sin and lose all hope  
Do not give in, pray and expect answers from God.  
God knows your Heart and your situations.  
Things will turn out fine, things will fall into place  
It is just a matter of time.

"When you need a friend and a shoulder to cry on,  
Just call me and I will be there.  
I will not give all the answers to your problems  
But be there to help you carry your load.  
I will be your friend.  
Just call me and I will be there."  
Jesus saying those words in your difficult times.

By Lazarus Mathebula



# EcuaWindow 5

28 April 2007

By Darren van Rensburg

**Ladies and gentlemen, we are officially outside the comfort zone...**  
Here's the inside story on our Mozambique trip:

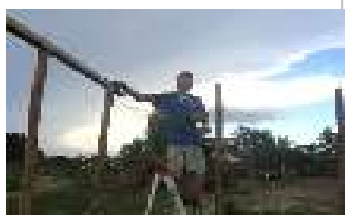
**E**arly on the morning of Monday 2 April, the entire OM Training Team set out in tightly-packed buses and combis on a surprisingly smooth, 2-day journey to tropical Vilanculos, Mozambique, where we split up into teams of 12 for the rebuilding of 6 church buildings recently destroyed by cyclone Favio.



Unexpectedly, our outreach soon turned into a survival camp. Somehow our drinking water was not right, and so for the next 2 weeks, the sufficiently healthy ones (a different 3-5 each day) looked after the rest who basically had some sort of zoo in their stomachs!

So for my team, this outreach turned out to be a journey in trusting God that He would use suffering to achieve His purposes and glorify Himself. Added to this faith-test:

- We received dubious medical diagnosis.
- Two of our team became dangerously sick, one having to be flown home (more later).
- One night at around 1:00 we were robbed. Two teenagers slit open one of our tents (probably with a knife), and thankfully were able to escape with only a guitar, due to the fact that the tent's occupants woke up and shouted. We did guard duty in shifts till



We arrived after Tuesday's sunset, set up our tents by torchlight (greatly needed by me due to some night blindness), prepared and ate our first fire-cooked meal, and met the pastor of the Baptist church we would be helping, along with his family and some neighbours.

Our first days were spent learning the ropes of rural life, and confidently implementing our carefully thought up living plan, part of which was to rotate 3 on kitchen duty each day while the rest worked on the church building. Another part was to have different people in charge of different areas, one overseeing the cooking and food supplies, one overseeing the medical kit etc. Our plan, however, did not last long...

morning, both for that night and for the following three nights.

## **But God had a purpose!**

God sustained and used the team for His kingdom purposes in a number of ways. These are some of the things He did (which we are aware of so far):

- 1.He allowed us to maintain a joyful testimony before the Mozambicans, which they remarked on afterwards. We were convicted to *"Do everything without complaining or arguing"* (Phil 2:14), believing that we would *"shine like stars among them"* (verse 16).
- 2.He healed our leader Roy (see left) miraculously. We know it was miraculous due to the fact that Roy recovered completely and quickly from what was truly a dangerous situation. He had been unable for many hours to take in food, so he had no energy even to take in liquids, leaving him alternating between sitting down to stop himself passing out from dehydration, and then having to stand up in order to throw up etc. But two days later he was working on the building project again!

3. We were able to combine with another team for kids' ministry most afternoons.

4. Awaiting building materials, we were able to go out in teams on two mornings into the community to share and pray with people, also inviting them to services every evening...



5. We had services on most evenings, I had two preaching opportunities. In preparing the second one I felt led to preach on how to handle suffering Biblically. This was a journey for my own heart from a point of feeling hard done-by to being thankful that God was using our suffering to develop in us amongst other things perseverance (James 1:2-4), character (Romans 5:3-5), a



Greetings from the Baptist Church of Vilanculos, seen here in front of their new building!

harvest of peace and righteousness (Hebrews 12:11), stronger and more purified faith (1 Peter 1:6-7), and a harvest of souls (Psalm 126:5-6). I've realised that a huge part of suffering lies in the way we think, and we need to fill our minds with and meditate on God's

perspective on suffering as revealed in Scripture during these hard times.

6. For my first opportunity to preach, I had the joy of sharing the gospel, and a lady (Esther) responded. When we asked her afterwards if she was truly willing to repent and receive Christ as Lord, she responded without hesitation that she was and I led her in a prayer of faith.

7. God helped us to complete the building (see left), with the help of another team, minus the walls and floor, which the locals are currently finishing.

8. Alex from Costa Rica was preaching about the need to get involved in God's work in English, and a Mozambican was translating into Chitswa, the local language. At one point he used the word 'hope', and the translator couldn't find the equivalent. Even knowing the word in Portuguese didn't help. And then Alex

said 'Temba', and the translator said, 'oh, yes, that's it!' God had told Alex, from Costa Rica, the word for hope in the Chitswa language of Mozambique!



9. Near the end of the outreach I made friends with an English-speaking Portuguese teacher named Victor, one of many who had lost his house in the cyclone. I soon realised he had a great hunger for the word of God, and

the reality he felt of the brevity of life granted me the opportunity of sharing the gospel with him the following evening. So eager was he to pray to accept Christ, that I wondered if he truly understood the message. But after asking if I could lead him in the sinner's prayer, he prayed on his own a beautiful prayer of heartfelt repentance and trust in Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Wow! So two days after his conversion, we walked together around the town prayerfully searching for a Bible (there are no shops where one can buy one in Vilanculos). And I praise God for directing us to a man who had two Bibles and only used one, and so we were able to purchase the other for him. Before parting ways, I gave him a brief overview of his new Bible, and encouraged him to start spending time with God every day, beginning with a chapter of John.

### Praise!

This newsletter could never capture the amazing experience God pulled us through in Mozambique. He truly laid some foundational lessons for the future in each one of our lives! We thank God for the completion of the building, but more importantly for the salvation of Esther, Victor and also Pépe. For more information, please visit [www.alexjulie.com](http://www.alexjulie.com).


### Prayer:

- For Victor, Esther, and Pépe to be growing in their faith and beginning to serve God.
- For Bibles to become available in Vilanculos!
- For our 2<sup>nd</sup> outreach to Muslims and Hindus in Durban.





**BETHESDA  
OUTREACH  
MINISTRIES**

a ministry of  
Evangelical Baptist Missions  


*"I will come and  
proclaim your  
mighty acts,  
O Sovereign Lord;  
I will proclaim  
your righteousness,  
yours alone.  
Since my youth,  
O God,  
you have taught me,  
and to this day  
I declare your  
marvelous deeds."*

*Psalm 71:16-17*

**Inside this issue:**

Staff Spotlight: Appointees Heather Rumley & the Cryans	2
Thank You	3
From the Lips of Children	3
Opportunities	4
Calendar of Events	4

# Raised to Praise

May 2007 Newsletter

## Modeling the Word

Our desire is that one day our grown children will boldly proclaim the marvelous deeds of the Lord that He has shown to them since their youth. As David expressed his appreciation in Psalm 71 for what God had taught him, we pray that our children acknowledge God's sovereignty as they are led down the path that He has designed for them to walk.

I am thankful for the God-given opportunities to come alongside churches, individuals, and organizations and help them develop ministries to meet the needs of orphans. Unfortunately, the problem that many of these organizations face is the lack of knowledge to get their program going. Having had some experience and understanding of the laws of South Africa it has been a joy to encourage them and help as needed. Of course, the most powerful tool that we have to offer is the Word of God. We want to be models of the Word to people who do not understand the true Gospel. The mandate to make disciples is one that we take seriously so we can impact the world for the glory of God.

This month, I have been invited to a church in Lusaka, Zambia to present the ministry of Bethesda. During that visit I will meet with government officials to help them understand the ministry that

Bethesda has to the orphans of South Africa.



We trust the Lord to reveal His will in these matters. We have had additional contacts from other countries requesting information and help to begin similar ministries.

One of the obstacles that I face at Bethesda is waiting for key team members to raise support so that they can get to the field. We have 3 individuals who have been appointed to Bethesda and are working diligently to reach full support. If you or others you know would like to help meet this need, please contact us.

The needs of Africa are great and it will take time, money, and risk to show pure religion and compassion to orphans. Please continue to pray that we will rely on God's wisdom in all matters. Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated as together we strive to raise up generations of children who will boldly proclaim God's marvelous deeds!

Persevering with Great Joy,



  
**Bethesda**  
OUTREACH  
Compassionate Care for African Orphans



## Staff Spotlight

### Appointees: Heather Rumley & Roger & Carol Cryan

Bethesda is always thrilled to welcome those individuals who have responded to God's call to not only support and pray for the ministry of Bethesda, but to "go," dedicating this time of their lives to physical long-term ministry with and for the children of Africa. A Bethesda missionary must come prepared to be flexible as the needs of a growing ministry change, and these individuals also come expecting to dedicate the gifts God has given them to building His ministry in South Africa. But before they can join the field, they must first raise the support that will enable them to care for their living expenses without needing to use Bethesda funds for that purpose. Three very gifted individuals that are currently in this stage of their missionary journey are Heather Rumley and Roger and Carol Cryan.

**Heather Rumley** is a graduate of Faith Baptist Bible College, and has wonderful talents in the areas of teaching and helping those with special needs related to education. She spent two years teaching at Grandview Christian School in Des Moines, IA, and is now helping in Evangelical Baptist Mission's home office as she works on raising support to come minister at Bethesda. We are eager to get her to the field, where she will be a great help in taking over the upper grades of Bethesda's school, as current teacher Jacy Hobbs will be returning to the States at the end of this school year. Heather's experience in helping children with special needs will also be largely used; often orphans that come to Bethesda are behind in their schooling, or may struggle with slight learning-disabilities because of the impoverishment and lack of nutrition in some of their backgrounds.



**Roger and Carol Cryan** have wonderful abilities in strengthening the Christian family through counseling and support. Originally from western New York, they have been married 34 years and have embarked on a journey of faith, making a ministry change at a time of life when most people are settling into well-established comfort. They are members of First Baptist Church of Elkhart, Indiana, and are no strangers to full-time ministry. Roger has held roles in churches of Youth Pastor, Associate and Head Pastor, and Pastor of Family Ministries. He and Carol have also worked with Baptist Children's

home in such roles as Houseparent, Counselor, and Houseparent Supervisor. Through all their roles, they have always had an emphasis on the family, and we are excited to have them come on board with Bethesda to help with continued training and counseling of our Bethesda houseparents; we can care for hundreds of children, but without a spiritually mature Christian couple leading each home, the chances of making eternal changes in the hearts and lives of our children is slim.

Both the Cryans and Heather desire to be fully-supported and able to minister full-time with Bethesda by the fall of this year. Their roles are urgently needed at Bethesda by that time. Currently, Heather is at 56% of her needed support, and the Cryans are at 30%. If you should feel led to give a one-time gift or monthly support to either of these appointees, we invite you to do so by sending a note and check to Evangelical Baptist Missions, PO Box 781438, Indianapolis, IN, 46278. Please designate your gifts to the individual you would like to support, and indicate whether it is a one-time or monthly gift.



## Thank You to Houseparent Couple

We want to thank Moses and Francina Mmotlana for their faithful year of service at Bethesda Outreach Ministries. Sadly, Moses requested to be released from their employment contract and with regret we honored their request. We were able to move the children that they were caring for into different homes and they are adjusting well to the changes. Please continue to pray for the children as they adjust to their new families and for the Mmotlana's as they make the transition to their new job opportunities. Please pray for us as we search for the right couple to add to our Bethesda team.

## From the Lips of Children

Following is some writing and artwork done recently by the students of Jabulane Christian Academy:

### "This is My Land"

A song  
by Prudence Mabola  
Grade 4



This land is your land,  
this land is my land!  
From Cape Town  
to the Canola Field;  
from Drakensburg  
to the Table Mountains,  
this land is made  
for you and me!

This land is your land,  
this land is my land!  
From Kimberley  
to the Horseshoe Falls;  
from Gold Gate  
to the Tribal Pastures,  
this land is made  
for you and me!



### A Tribute to Workers

by Mooketsi, Grade 1



### Self Portrait

by Thandwe, Grade 1



### A Boat

by Lerato, Grade 1

### "My Hero"

Excerpts by Sipho Ngwenya, Grade 6

I think Paul is a hero because he stopped killing the Christians. He repented and started to preach the Word of God. This is a good example that shows you can repent from your sins to be a believer. I want to be like this man because he made a good example that you can repent from your sins. God wanted to show us that even if you are very difficult, He can change you.

### "A Worker I Respect"

For Worker's Day, by Johanna Ngwenya, Grade 4

I respect Ma'am Maboea for what she has done in my life. She has done a lot in my life like telling me about the Word of God. And for teaching me times tables too. Ma'am is such a good teacher, when you do wrong things she will tell you it is not right. And she likes to build others up.

Ma'am, thank you for building me up in the right way.

I love you, Ma'am.



## BETHESDA OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Email: [bethesda-temba@bhoi.org](mailto:bethesda-temba@bhoi.org)

### South African Details:

Plot 13, Klipdrift

PO Box 2615

Hammatshaal

0400

Phone: 012 711 3387

Fax: 012 711 3472

### Bank Details:

Standard Bank, Brooklyn

Branch Code: 01245

Account Name: Temba Bethesda

Outreach

Account Number: 011818743

### United States Details:

Evangelical Baptist Mission

Bethesda Outreach

PO Box 781438

Indianapolis, Indiana 46278

Phone: 317 872 0488

Fax: 317 872 4489

For U.S. online giving, go to

[www.afm.org](http://www.afm.org)

We're on the Web!

[www.bethesdaoutreach.org](http://www.bethesdaoutreach.org)

### Managerial Staff:

John & Lois Mixon

Klaas Mashabela

Michelle Gennels

Ruth Kisting

Frans Manaka

Dana Scott

### Houseparent Supervision:

Enzo Shikwambane

### Houseparents:

Elas & Mamtie Mathele

Jones & Lenah Phiso

Enzo & Masello Shikwambane

Frans & Salome Manaka

### Houseparent Assistants:

Christinah Moopi

### Maintenance/Grounds:

Allen Nkomo

Elvis Kapshakadi

Dorah Mahun

### Teachers:

Elizabeth Mahone

Jane Hobbs

Tryphuna Ledwaba

## Compassionate Care for African Orphans

Bethesda Outreach, a ministry of Evangelical Baptist Missions, was born in October of 2000 out of a desire to show compassion to children in Africa who had been orphaned by AIDS.

Bethesda's mission is to encourage and assist the local church in meeting the needs of orphan children that they may become disciples of Christ. That mission is accomplished through Bethesda's Children's Village, Orphan Care Resource Centre, and Hands of Mercy Ministry.

Bethesda Outreach Ministries is registered as a non-profit organization.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.bethesdaoutreach.org](http://www.bethesdaoutreach.org).

## Cast Your Burdens...

Frans and Salome Manaka, houseparents to seven children aged 9 years and younger, are learning creative ways to chase toddlers since Salome dislocated a bone in her foot a few days ago! Please pray for extra strength for them for the next few weeks until she gets the cast off.



## Calendar of Events

16 May—6 June

Cedarville University  
Team at Bethesda

16 May—17 July

Samantha Smith (Intern)  
at Bethesda

22—25 May

Baptist Bible College  
Team at Bethesda

16 June

YOUTH DAY—all are  
invited to picnic on Be-  
thesda grounds

30 June

Mini-Seminar by Mark  
Kington on topic of  
Finances—all are invited  
to join us at the Bethesda  
training centre



## Opportunities

### Capital Project Needs

Children's Home

Construction:

R 1,320,000 (\$220,000)

Village Road Construction:

R 480,000 (\$80,000)

Combie (2 needed):

R 220,000 (\$36,670)/each

Tractor with Equipment:

R 120,000 (\$20,000)

### Children's Home Needs

(for dances living in South Africa)

Non-perishable food items

**Bethesda**  
OUTREACH  
*Compassionate Care for African Orphans*





## **Missed Something?**

Would you like to obtain audio copies of any of the messages at Pretoria Central?

Well, there are a number of ways in which you can get this, namely:

- By downloading it from the internet at <http://www.central.org.za>
- At the Church resource Centre via the following means:
  - An Audio CD;
  - An MP3 CD
  - By bringing in your memory stick (flash disk) onto which we will place the message
- By writing to us [office@central.org.za](mailto:office@central.org.za) and requesting the message

**There are currently 62 Messages available on the Internet**, all of which are available online or at the resource center. From time to time we will make available other messages from the past few years via the Internet.

“Sanctify them through thy truth:  
thy word is truth.” - [John 17:17](#)