

F.G.C

FULL GOSPEL CHURCH OF GOD

DUNAMIS

JANUARY - APRIL 2023



index / content

- 01 MODERATOR (Pastor Stafford Petersen)
- 03 SECRETARY GENERAL (Pastor Renier Pelser)
- 04 THE CROSS IN ME (WOMEN'S MINISTRY) (Sister Nicky Mkokeli)
- 05 THE CROSS AND ME (WOMEN'S MINISTRY) (Debbie Iyer)
- 06 THE CROSS AND ME (WOMEN'S MINISTRY) (Dr. Rechelle Jacobs)
- 07 THE CROSS AND ME (WOMEN'S MINISTRY) (Arauna Briedenhann)
- 08 WHAT HAPPENED ON THE CROSS (Ps JC Francis)
- 11 THE MEANING OF THE DEATH OF CHRIST (Ps LS Swana)
- 13 THE GREATEST LOVE OF GOD (Bishop Earl Abel)
- 15 EASTER AND ME (Ps Lisa Hufkie)
- 17 JESUS CHRIST - OUR PASSOVER LAMB (Ps Solomon Khuthama)
- 19 "IT IS FINISHED" ... TELELESTAI (Ps Heather Bock)
- 20 WILLING HEARTS FOR GOD'S WORD
- 21 THE WORD OF GOD TRUMPS ALL
- 22 HOE GEMAAK WANNEER DIT WAS JY OP WIT EN SWART
LEES NET ROOI WYS? (Phillip de Jager)
- 23 NKOSI'S HAVEN CHILDREN'S HOME (Jack B Chirwa)
- 24 WORLD SHERIFF'S DAY (Ps Jack & Serah Chirwa)
- 25 CHRIST HOSPITAL MINISTRY (Ps Jack & Serah Chirwa)
- 26 YOUR ROLE IN A BLESSING (Ps Christo Maree)
- 29 HIS JOURNEY IS OUR JOURNEY (Ps Dominique Adonis)
- 32 THE POWER OF CLOSE PROXIMITY (Rev H.D Makhubele)
- 34 WHAT SAYETH THE LORD ABOUT TRUST IN MARRIAGE (Rev. TL Mashiloane)
- 36 BIBLE SUNDAY & CELEBRATION BIBLE
- 37 MUCH FUN ON BIBLE SUNDAY (Ps Christo Maree)
- 38 COPYRIGHT & THE BIBLE (Ps Christo Maree)
- 39 INTENSIVE SPIRITUAL ACTION ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE
- 40 BOOK YOUR NEXT EVENT WITH DEWALD GOUWS



Easter

Stafford Petersen
Moderator

2023



In a world where various beliefs are promoted and even more styles of celebration for Easter, what carries value for me is; just as for Jews, Passover represents the redemption from slavery and the deliverance to freedom, for Christians. Easter represents the ultimate redemption of humankind through the life and death of Jesus.

However you choose to celebrate Easter, I choose to follow the meal that Jesus gave to his disciples at the Last Supper before he was crucified, and what we know today as the Eucharist or Holy Communion. The Four-Step Process of Redemption as stated in Exodus 6:6-7 can guide us toward a positive change:

“Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments: And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.”

Exodus 6:6-7

1. and I will bring you out from under the burdens...
2. and I will rid you out of their bondage
3. and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm
4. And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God

This was a promise given to Moses for the Israelites, and one that I comfortably believe should be applied to Christians today. For Israel these promises especially the first 3, were effectively physical deliverance from the slavery and bondage that they were in. However, the primary goal of the deliverance from Egypt was also to bring them to Spiritual freedom.

Let's explore this physical freedom for a moment:

You're locked up in a room. You're in a foreign land, in a malevolent relationship, in a dispiriting situation.

Firstly, you need to get out.

This Easter represents to me the need to get out of any and all bondages that you may have gotten wrapped up in. This Easter tells me that it is possible to get out of whatever it may be. But getting out may not be enough. Often, the enslaving force will continue to exercise its hold on you outside of the walls of the prison cell, outside the boundaries of the land, the bounds of the relationship, or the parameters of the situation.

But this freedom is also a Spiritual one

Because sometimes it's not enough to get out: you must also battle the oppressor and break its hold on your life. Yet fighting off the oppressor may not be enough, either. The same enemy — or another like him (or her or it) — may return and lock you back up again.

To become free, you must defeat the enemy, nullifying his power so that it can never be regained, and making such an example of him that no one will ever dare repeat the attempt to enslave you ever again. This Easter tells me that Spiritual freedom is possible.

You've gotten out, broken free, and annihilated the enslaving force. Perhaps you've annihilated or neutralized every force in existence that might possibly enslave you.

But now there is more:

But you have still only dealt with the external causes of your slavery. You've dealt with the enemy, but you haven't dealt with yourself.

One of the most important questions to ask yourself this Easter; What is it about you that allowed you to be imprisoned, exiled, exploited or constricted in the first place? If that does not change, you may be technically free, but essentially a slave. In as much as what the Physical freedom is available to you.

In as much as what the Spiritual freedom has been made accessible to you, you must embrace it and accept it through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. It being available and never appropriating it, is like smelling the cake and seeing the slice on your plate and never tasting it. You will never really know the value of that which has been prepared for you.

And in no way am I comparing the sacrifice of Jesus to eating cake. All I am attempting to say, often times we see and smell what's available and never participate in the beauty of what is available.

Physical freedom is possible. Spiritual freedom is within grasp.

But we have to appropriate that which has been made available. To make us free, God took us out of Egypt. The place of Physical bondage. That was the first thing. But Egypt was a superpower; indeed, a week after the exodus it's mighty army was chasing after the Israelites to bring them back. If Pharaoh's choicest troops had not been drowned in the Red Sea, the Children of Israel would have been subject to Egypt's power wherever they might have been. Nor was being delivered from Egypt's hegemony a long-term guarantee of our freedom.

Egypt might rebuild her army, or some other oppressor might rise to take her place. That is why God delivered us from Egypt "with an outstretched arm and with great judgments" inflicting such punishment upon the Egyptians that their spirit was broken, the very basis of their society was discredited, and any future possibility of a "comeback" or a proxy was obliterated. Still, the people of Israel were not truly free. Even after every force that could possibly enslave us was destroyed, there remained the fact that we were enslavable. And herein lies the power of accepting the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. We accept the fact that we are enslavable, but we also accept the fact that the sacrifice of Christ makes it possible never to be enslaved again. Never to succumb to the enemy of darkness ever again. Never to go back. And here is why, to go back to enslavement is a choice. A choice that many still make.

My choice today is to accept what was accomplished on the Cross of Calvary. My Physical freedom and my Spiritual freedom. A choice I need to appropriate every day of my life. Thank you Father God, for the gift of Your Son Jesus Christ. I accept His sacrifice and the freedom that comes with it.

I receive Your Son Jesus as my Lord and personal Saviour.



Easter

2023



Renier Pelser
Secretary General

The best Easter message speaks to the heart of the Christian faith: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Easter is a time to celebrate the victory of life over death, hope over despair, and love over hate. It is a time to remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and the power of his resurrection.

The message of Easter is one of redemption, forgiveness, and new beginnings. It reminds us that no matter how far we may have strayed from the path of righteousness, there is always hope for renewal and transformation. It is a message of hope that inspires us to persevere through life's challenges and to trust in the love and mercy of God.

At its core, the Easter message is a message of love. It reminds us that God's love is unconditional and available to all who seek it. The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross is the ultimate expression of that love, and his resurrection is the ultimate victory over sin and death.

As we celebrate Easter, let us be reminded of the power of love and the hope that it brings. Let us embrace Easter's message and the resurrection's transformative power. Let us love one another as Jesus loved us and live our lives serving others. May the joy of Easter fill our hearts, and may the love of God be ever present in our lives.

Through the message of Easter, we are reminded that we are all imperfect and in need of God's grace and that we should extend that same grace to those around us. Easter is also a time for reflection and introspection as we examine our lives and how we can become better people. It is a time to ask for forgiveness and extend it to others.

The resurrection of Jesus symbolizes the promise of new life and a fresh start. Moreover, Easter is a time of renewal and new beginnings. As we celebrate Easter, let us be inspired by the hope and promise of new beginnings and strive to become better versions of ourselves.

In a world that often seems dark and hopeless, the message of Easter offers a beacon of light and a reason to hope. It is a reminder that even in the darkest times, there is always hope for redemption and renewal. Let us hold onto that hope and let it inspire us to live our lives with love, compassion, and grace toward others.

Let us, as the Full Gospel Church bring hope in every town/city by proclaiming the good news of Easter - Jesus is alive!

Sister Nicky Mkokeli

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

THE CROSS In Me



What does the Cross mean to you? To many people, the Cross is merely an archaic emblem. To others, the Cross invokes feelings of guilt or confusion. Some churches even see it as a hindrance to attracting nonbelievers.

Yet believers chose the Cross as their symbol for a special reason. There were many symbols of Jesus earthly ministry to represent them. They could have chosen a manger to represent where Jesus was born. They could have chosen a boat, from which Jesus taught the crowd in Galilee.

But instead they chose the Cross that proclaims that the wages of sin are fully paid, and that the perfect sacrifice has been fully offered. A memory of crucifixion of our Lord, the redeeming benefits of His passion and death, a symbol of life and death, a mark my heart will carry through out it's lifetime.

At the Cross the new Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, Nicky arises to create a new humanity, family and kingdom. It's about dying to yourself. To put away selfish and sinful ways. It lives in me, it guides me, it reconciles humanity with heavens, like Paul once said "I have been crucified with Christ, It is no longer I who lives but Christ lives in me".

Jesus is the Cross in me that keeps pushing, pulling, pursuing, pruning and paving for me, a magnetic force that follows me.

Through out the life that I have lived, the Cross in me has taught me that: Forgiveness take sacrifice, Love is a sacrifice and His death was not in vain. Surely without the Cross life is meaningless. The Cross in me!

Women's Ministry

THE CROSS

AND ME



Debbie Iyer

Growing up a fourth generation "Christian" did not hem me into a life of protective custody from the perils of the world. On the contrary, I became a peril.

Living life without a Dad, and the stigma of his suicide catapulted me into a longing for constant love and attention. I spiraled into an abyss, hopeless, bitter and hating myself for just being me. Until The Cross of Jesus became so real to me.

At a youth retreat, I knelt at the Altar like they asked. I heard my youth leader say "Picture The Cross of Jesus" I closed my eyes and saw a photographic, marked out revelation that is etched in my heart. It was as if The Father pulled back the curtains of time and I had a front row seat to the greatest love story ever told. I was undone. The tangible genuineness, the brutality and power of The Cross transformed my life.

I think about the thief on The Cross. I was that thief who rejected Jesus, who was angry at Him for my circumstances. I was the thief who scoffed and blurted out a myriad of questions to God, making demands, repudiating His love and declining my destiny. His Grace reached out and pulled me in. I chose the right Cross.

The Cross stripped Jesus of His dignity. There was no dignity when He hung on The Cross. Oh, but there was Love on that Cross.

My response is total surrender to Him. In reckless abandon, I cry out "Thank You for The Cross Lord"

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Cross and Me



Dr. Rechelle Jacobs

The cross impacted my life when I was 18 years old. I am the oldest daughter to a single mom of 5 kids, who worked as a machinist earning minimum wage, living on the Cape flats. We were poor, soup kitchens and wearing old clothes was a blessing. When I was 6 years old we had to flee from my dad out of fear for our lives. I was fatherless filled with guilt and shame because he was a jailed criminal. God protected us even when I didn't know He existed. I encountered the Holy Spirit after passing grade 12, It was when I accepted Jesus that the university accepted me. I got a scholarship, graduated and became a banker.

I got married, through struggles God blessed us with a pigeon pair. With my heart's desires fulfilled as a wife and mom, God convicted me that the long work hours prohibited me from being a present wife and mom. I sacrificed 30% of my income to start an academic career. God wanted me to pursue a PhD, I did not believe I could, it was difficult, yet I graduated with my PhD in Statistical Science. I was awarded a 2023 fellowship at the National Graduate Academy for Mathematical & Statistical Sciences in South Africa and recently appointed to the FGCSA Board of Christian Education. The cross saved me, it showed me that though I see myself as having disparate focus areas (wife, mom, pastor's wife, academic), people see someone saved by grace.

Arauna Briedenhann

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Cross and Me



Well, since I became born again, I was amazed by the fact that God knew before hand how my life will turn out, He knew exactly what I will do, my sins, my wrong doings and yet He chose to send His Son to die on the Cross for me.

I learned during my journey as new believer that God had this Salvation plan in mind from the very beginning. We read in Ezekiel, that the Prophet, announced that God intended to restore His people to their land and to establish a glorious kingdom ruled by the Messiah, a descendant of David. Ezekiel 34 :23-24, a promise of the birth of the Prince of Peace who ultimately will be crucified and resurrected so that we can have eternal life. "And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness for by His wounds you were

healed- I Peter 2:24," What Peter is saying here is that Jesus heals us of the effects of sin by removing our actual sins from us and taking them on to Himself. He doesn't excuse them, justify them or hide them, He removes them. How amazing. Being a mother myself I cannot imagine giving one of my children's lives for anyone!

Not to mention to someone not deserving of it, who is sinning, disobedient etc. yet God knowing us beforehand, loved us so much that He did exactly that, gave His Son for us.....is that not Just AWESOME!!! So, for me and I'm sure for all born again children of God, He is the most Amazing, AWESOME, Ultimate form of Love. So where does this leave me, to take up my Cross and follow in His footsteps, following His Example!

Ps JC Francis

WHAT HAPPENED ON

The Cross



The lessons and experiences that we take away from the things that transpired during the Easter weekend, are timeless and helps us on our journey of faith, as we aspire to serve and honour our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In this short article we will be reflecting on a few things that happened while our Lord Jesus was hanging on the Cross.

“And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.” - Mark:15:25 NIV.

In a few week's time we will be celebrating what we refer to as the Easter weekend. Marking the Death burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. An event that are the cornerstone of our Christian faith.

The Jews divided both the night and day into four equal parts of three hours each. Based on Jewish Time: The day starts at 6 am. Therefore 7 am is the 1st hour. Which will make 9 am the third hour. We'll ask two questions: (1) What happened from 9 am to 12 pm ? and (2) What happened from 12 pm to 3 pm ? Let's look at the 5 things that Jesus did while on the Cross.

JESUS PRAYED FOR HIS ENEMIES.

“Then said Jesus, Father forgive them, for they know not what they do. And they parted his garments among them, casting lots for them.” - Luke:23:34

This is a fulfillment of the prophecy (Is:53:12) that tells us that Jesus would make intercession for his transgressors. I believe it was for both the Jews and the Roman soldiers. The Jews knew Jesus was innocent, but the Romans were ignorant. Forgiveness is key - Our inability to forgive is a part of our inability to understand the cross of Christ. Jesus dealt with the most difficult things for us as humans. Unforgiveness is the single

most popular poisons that the enemy uses against God's people and one of the deadliest poisons a person can take spiritually.

The most difficult thing to do is to forgive, but Jesus did, and we can too, if we fail to forgive then we make ourselves greater than Jesus. People will do painful things to you in the church and God will look at your response to the pain.

In Acts: 7:59-60 Stephen showed the same kind of forgiveness. “While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.”

The extending and receiving of forgiveness in an act that gives so much power to the believer and the Gospel Message. The Apostle Paul rightfully says in the book of Roman's, I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for, it is the power of God unto Salvation.



For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.) Forgiveness is not concession of the weak, but a demonstration of grace, of the "strong in the Lord"

JESUS INVITED THE THIEF INTO HIS KINGDOM

"And Jesus said to him, assuredly tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." - Luke: 23:43

In life we will face two crosses namely: the cross of rebellion and the cross of repentance. Which cross we bear is entirely up to us, but we must realize that there are consequences to each. Jesus died for our rebellion to bring us to a place of repentance. We are invited into the kingdom. Notice Jesus said Paradise not Heaven. Nobody could go to Heaven because the full price of redemption was not paid yet.

- Paradise - Where all the Old Testament saints were kept.
- Hell / Hades - All the sinners went to Hades who died without Christ. (Luke:16:23 The Rich died and opened his eyes in hell).
- Tartarus - prison for the Angels (2 Peter 2:4).
- Abyss / bottomless pit (Rev:9:1)
- Lake of fire (Rev:20:14)

There is an open invitation to everyone who seeks to find God irrespective of where and in what situation we find ourselves in. The Gospel is not a message of judgement and condemnation, but firstly of grace and more grace.

JESUS APPOINTS JOHN TO LOOK AFTER HIS MOTHER

"When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman,[a] here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home." - John 19:26

Jesus gave John an assignment to take care of Mary. Most scholars believe that when Joseph died that Mary was poor. Therefore, Jesus in his dying moments filled with tender regard for his mother secured for her an adopted son. We see Jesus show us that we must take care of your family. Acts: 16:31 shows that if you are the only one saved in your house then God has appointed you to ensure the family is saved.

Then Midday came. From Noon till 3 Pm - Jesus never spoke a word. There was three hours of darkness upon the earth. The darkness was a sign of God's judgment on sin.

When God punished Pharaoh there was darkness on the earth. Darkness is associated with Judgment (Joel 2:30,32, Revelation 6:12-17). I believe this was the time Jesus was made sin. 2Cor: 5:21 For Him who knew no sin he was made to be sin on our behalf, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. A time where Jesus was judged.

The message of the cross should not only reconcile us to God, but renew and restore our relationship with each other.

JESUS BECOMES THIRSTY

"After this Jesus, knowing that all things are now finished, that the scripture might be fulfilled said, "I am thirsty."
- John 19:28

His thirst was a mark of his real humanity. This statement countered any idea that Jesus was not a real human being. Jesus died on the cross as a man, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief and we hid as it were our faces from Him, he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely, he hath borne our grief and carried our sorrows, yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

The thirst of our Lord on the cross symbolizes the deep inherent need we all have for spiritual fulfillment. A need that only a dying Saviour on a wooden cross can fulfill.

JESUS DIED PHYSICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinger, he said it is finished and he bowed his head and gave up the ghost." - John 19:30

When Jesus said it is finished, He was referring to the debt of sin of mankind. The suffering and agonies in redeeming man was over. He completed the task and the full price of redemption was paid. Jesus was saying, I did everything my Father desired of me. He died physically - He gave up the ghost. Jesus died himself nobody killed him. He decided to die.

When we understand our covenant with God, then we can say death will not be an event that leaves us hopeless and helpless. In fact to the believer it is something that we long for, to be united with our Lord in glory. Death to the believer is gain. Phil:1:23, "I am in a strait between two, having a desire to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better, nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you." In Isaiah 38 Hezekiah cancelled the word of a Prophet. In 2 Tim:4:6-8 Paul says, "I am now ready to be offered."

Jesus also dies spiritually (John:19:30). Read Mark:15:34 "An at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'My God, My God why has you forsaken me?" 3pm in the afternoon Jesus dies, it was the actual time of the evening sacrifice in the temple, where the priest laid the lamb on the altar. The Governor, Pilate found no fault in Jesus (Luke:23:4). He validated the lamb as the perfect sacrifice. They could not break his legs, took a spear and pierced his side (John:19:32-33).

Spiritual death is separation from God. Three types of death: Physical, Spiritual and Eternal. God forsook Jesus because of our sin. Jesus went to Hell (Eph:4:9). He spoiled, disarmed principles and powers (Col:2:15). He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Heb.1:5 in Hell Jesus was born again. "For unto which of the angels said he at any time, thou art my son, this day have I begotten you, and again, I will be to him a Father and he shall be to me a Son. Jesus became the first person to be born again. He was the first begotten from the death." Rev:1:5; Col:1:18. When they pierced his side blood and water came out, I believe the church was born on the cross.

What happened on the cross and through the cross is a demonstration of God's power and Love to a lost humanity. Seeking to redeem them back to Him.

In all of our great expository preaching and teachings which we are equipped with as messengers of Christ, let us not neglect the most powerful Message of the Cross.



Matthew 27:50-53 "Then Jesus shouted out again, and He released His spirit. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the temple was torn into two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead. They went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people."

THE MEANING OF THE

Ps LS Swana

Death of Christ

It is Vicarious - meaning a Substitution

When Jesus Christ took up our sins upon himself, He also substituted us in the death we deserved. The act of the cross was therefore vicarious as it substituted a sinner with a righteous man, Jesus Christ to die.

It is propitiation

The word "Propitiation" signifies the turning away of wrath by a sacrifice. For all the sins committed by Mankind, Mankind was therefore facing God's wrath.

Rom: 1:18 "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men"

"Let no one deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience" Ephesians 5:6

"Whom God has set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God has passed over the sins that were previously committed" Rom 3:25

It is an atonement

The general word means "covering" The through Greek work is "Katallage" which means "Reconciliation" In the old testament, atonement was made for individual's trespasses and national sins when reconciliation with God was required.

The atonement provided a covering of the guilt of the real criminal, and made it invisible to the eyes of a Holy God. In the death of Jesus Christ we have more than just covering, but the complete removal of sins through His blood.



It is a Reconciliation

The need for reconciliation is apparent because of enmity between God and Man, that was brought about by man's sin. Through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, this condition of enmity was changed into one of peace and fellowship. This new relationship magnifies the Grace of God, for no man can reconcile himself to God.

We were reconciled to God through the death of His Son.

"For if, when we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life" Rom 5:10

"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled" Colossians 1:21

It is a Ransom or Redemption

The word "Redemption" signifies a releasing or liberation from captivity, slavery or death by payment of a price, called a "Ransom".

The word has a double significance:

It means the payment of a price;

The deliverance of the captive.

Jesus Christ paid the price at the cross through His death, that Mankind can be delivered from sin.

If Jesus had not risen from the dead, these would be the five negatives that would rob the Gospel of its power and blessing:

- Our preaching would be in vain.
- Faith would be in vain.
- The Apostles would be false witnesses.
- Believers would still be in sin.
- Those who have died would all perish.

The results or benefits of His resurrection

- It provides a firm foundation for our faith
- It provides an assurance of forgiveness of sins
- We have an understanding, merciful and faithful High Priest in Heaven.
- It assures a believer of all needed power for life and service.
- The believer has the assurance of resurrection and immortality.



THE GREATEST

Bishop Earl Abel

Love of God

**"FOR GOD SO LOVED
THE WORLD THAT HE
GAVE HIS ONLY
BEGOTTEN SON; THAT
WHOSOEVER BELIEVES
IN HIM SHOULD NOT
PERISH BUT HAVE
EVERLASTING LIFE."
(JOHN 3:16)**

All of us are born with a longing for inner satisfaction and are constantly looking for achievement, thirsting for success. In our pursuit of a better life, we are perpetually striving and are never satisfied. Deep within, there remains a hunger and a thirst for spiritual truth which only God can satisfy, an emptiness which only God can fill. Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty"(John6:35).

We aim to fulfill His Commandment in Acts 1:8 by communicating God's Love as His witnesses, so that others can enjoy a spiritually, fulfilling life, something that the world can never, and will never provide, and also live a purposeful life for God in fulfilling His purpose. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly"(John10:10).

The Greatest Love of God was displayed on the Cross, when Jesus laid down His life for us all. He went through pain and agony because He Loved us. He was Born, Suffered, Died and Arose for you. He Endured so you can Endure. He died so you can Live. He Arose so you can Arise from pain, sorrow, hurt, disappointed, rejection, brokenness etc.

LET GOD'S CHURCH ARISE

It's Time for the Church to Arise and Reflect on the Greatest Love (John 3:16) and The Greatest Act (1 John 3:16) of God for mankind, the reason why the Church of Jesus Christ exists today. The Revelation of John 3:16 will enable us to obey the command of the Lord.

His work for our Redemption tells us, THE GREATEST LOVE, for the world.

Because of His Great Love, God initiated, THE GREATEST SACRIFICIAL ACT in giving The Greatest Gift to mankind. Every individual seeking truth, must believe that Jesus is the Way to God; that Jesus is The Son of God who Died for our sins, was Buried and who Arose to justify us and to be our Righteousness before God. Through Christ, we experience THE GREATEST DELIVERANCE, from THE GREATEST SENTENCE, the condemnation of sin that separates us from God eternally. By accepting Christ into our lives, we receive Everlasting Life, having fellowship with God Eternally.

THE GREATEST ACT OF GOD (1 JOHN 3:16)

"Hereby perceive we the Love of God because He laid down His life for us and we ought to lay down our lives for the Brethren."

THE GREATEST DISCOVERY lies in the acknowledgment of God's unfailing Love for mankind. This Revelation will cause THE GREATEST CHANGE in our lives.

Yes Indeed, this is The GREATEST CHALLENGE, in being a GATEWAY TO GOD'S LOVE. Let's go to the Highways and byways to bring them in, we should not lose this opportunity to Live for Christ and to bring the lost souls to Him.

May we live our lives, THE GREATEST POSSESSION that we have, for others, a purpose with Eternal Value that is worth Living for. May we Demonstrate this Love in our lives, by Loving one another just as Christ has Loved us.

Let the Message of 1 John 3:16 be our Renewed Vision for our Lives. Let us be Doers of God's word not just Hearers. Let the Message of Love and Forgiveness penetrate your hearts daily as you continue to Carry your Cross.

Let the Message of Easter remind you of The Love of Jesus displayed on the Cross.





EASTER AND *Me*

My story can be those of many, if not all reading this article. I have become a wife, twenty two years ago and a mother to our precious son twenty one years ago, who sadly transitioned into Glory on the seventh of September 2020. Of course this is not where my life story starts, but there is only so much that one can cramp onto one page. In sharing I hope that the significance of Easter brings renewed hope and meaning to my readers.

The story of the Cross has perhaps been just a story for many, almost like a tear-jerking novel which one has taken up a number of times, skipping to the good parts and the end. You want to get to the parts where it did not necessarily end well for the main character, but when you put it down you ponder on how fortunate you are and maybe a sigh of relief that it was not you. But when life happens, the finished work of our Lord and Saviour makes you grateful that He did it with you in mind. Father God went through a relatable experience of loss so that we can come out stronger on the other side. His anguish for His loss was so great that He had to shut His eyes for a moment and let darkness cover the earth. There is no better display of our relatable Heavenly Father than this.

Our Son, Anthontyhezs Joseph, Pedro Hufkie, was born with a generic disease called Duchennes Muscular Dystrophy. No mental preparation through physicians for what to expect in the duration of any fatal disease will ever prepare a parent for the pain and sorrow of loss. Like Father God, I closed the eyes of my heart, for a very, very, very long moment in a feeble attempt to shut down the pain and sorrow.

A couple of days to Jesus's crucifixion in (Matthew 26) He sends them to go and to prepare for Passover, reminding them that He will be delivered up for treachery and to be crucified. He did not back out knowing full well of the agony that awaits Him. The Son of Man, in His humanity, with me in mind, in control of His assignment, sat down to have His last Passover meal with His disciple. He instituted a new covenant, He raised the bread as Head of the meal, He prays, broke it and said; "Take eat this is my body." - The bread of affliction which the forefathers ate in the land of Egypt. The invitation is to all who hungers and are needy to eat at His table.

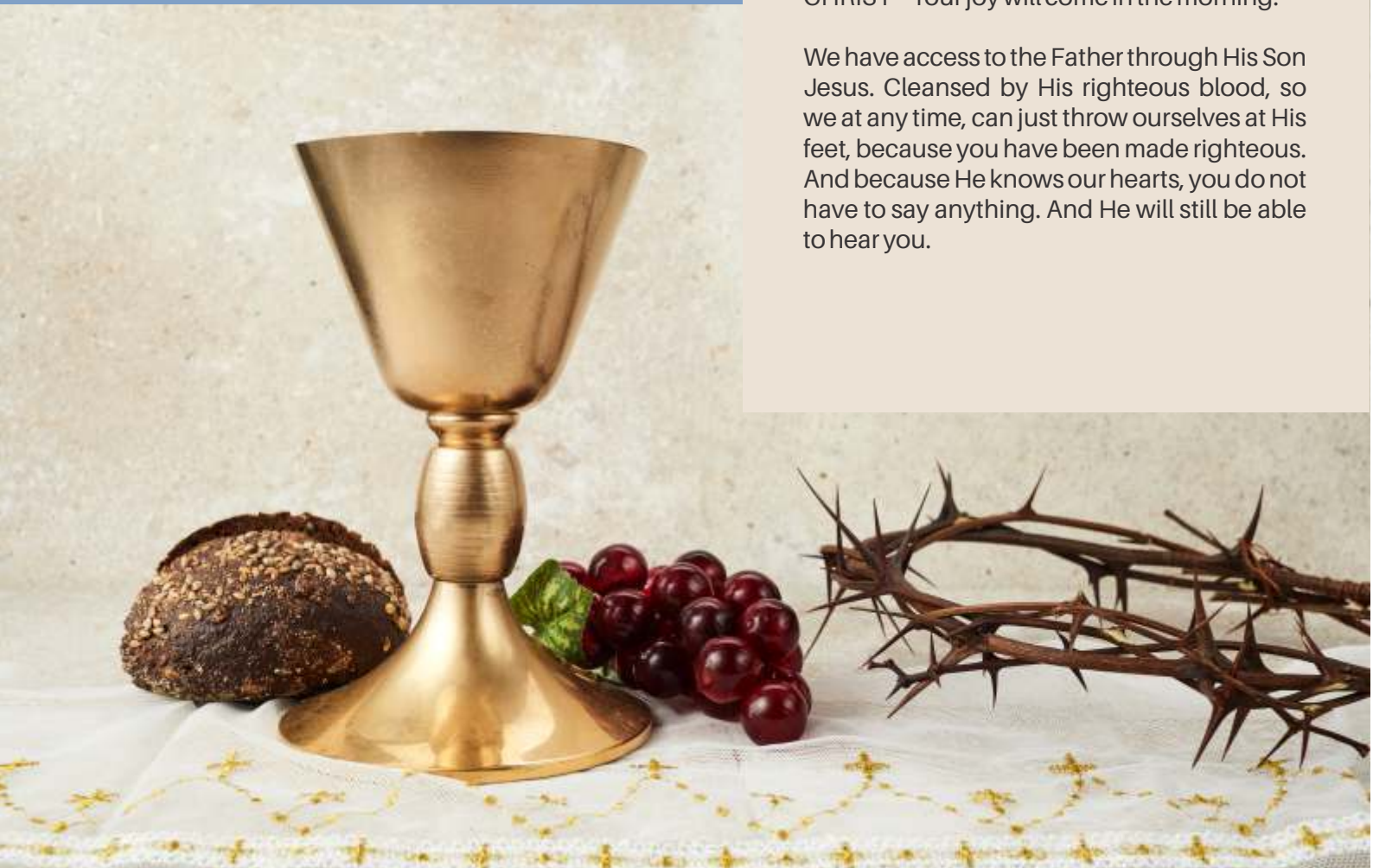


Our hunger and needs are not just for physical sustenance. It extends to our need to be sustained through our hard times. When with every breath, you can physically feel the heartache. The solace in knowing that the Son of Man has endured pain and suffering, so we will never find ourselves in a justifiable place where we can say: "He cannot possibly know how I feel."

Jesus sat down for the Passover meal, knowing full well that the Passover lamb had not been slaughtered and prepared for the meal. He, that same night, became the Lamb that was sacrificed, He was the Passover Lamb.

Nights, days, for months I soaked my pillow with tears, my head understood what has happened and why but my heart just could not make any sense of it. And there are still days which are difficult. But the "STORY" of the CROSS always makes me realise with every tear shed, it does not matter how deep you have sunk in grief, the STORY will end well for all who believe that He is the RISEN CHRIST - Your joy will come in the morning.

We have access to the Father through His Son Jesus. Cleansed by His righteous blood, so we at any time, can just throw ourselves at His feet, because you have been made righteous. And because He knows our hearts, you do not have to say anything. And He will still be able to hear you.





JESUS CHRIST - OUR

Passover Lamb

Ps. Solomon Khuthama

Soon we will be celebrating one of the greatest and popular religious holidays, some call it , Easter (Acts 12:4 -KJV) or Passover (commonly known in the scriptures), and some call it " the festival of salvation", I therefore would like us to focus on the meaning and the significance of it , rather than the different names we may call it.

It is important for us to ask ourselves what Passover means to the New Testament Church, and what does it mean to God who is the originator. Despite the differing opinions on the celebration of this festival, one thing for sure is that the Death, Burial and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus is of great significance to our faith. It reminds us of God's master plan of salvation for all humanity, symbolized by the deliverance of the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt (Exodus 12), where we see the Lord commanding them to sacrifice a lamb or a young goat and put its blood on their door posts & eat its roasted meat . Jesus met all the requirements to be our lamb. Passover marked the beginning of their religious year, and most importantly at Passover, the focus was on the lamb, even now our focus must be on Christ - the lamb of God, and it is the blood of Christ our Passover lamb that cleanses all our sins. He is the perfect and ultimate sacrifice for sins. John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "There is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! " . It is the celebration of God's deliverance of his people (in the past - Israel out of Egypt and in the present - our redemption from sin and eternal death.)

As we celebrate this year's Passover, let's remind ourselves of the significance of this great celebration in the calendar of our faith. It is a time of Commemoration, a time of Celebration and a time of contemplating His great return.

1 IT IS A TIME OF COMMEMORATION OF HIS GREAT SACRIFICE.

To commemorate is to do something to remember and give respect to a great person or event. For us as the church of our Lord Jesus Christ, this time should be a time of great reflection on what the Lord did for us. It should be a special time of remembering and honouring our Lord. It is during this time where we are called to Commemorate the Lord Jesus and the suffering, He underwent so that we may be saved. THE LORD Jesus was made the guilt offering (Isaiah 53:10)

1 Corinthians 5:21 "for He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us....." note that it does not say He was made a sinner but was made sin- when He was nailed on that cursed wooden cross, the Father saw sin (our sins) nailed there, and the price for sin completely paid. We need to remember that as Christians and as a church we are carrying this great message. "THE PRICE FOR SIN IS PAID IN FULL"

2 IT IS A TIME OF CELEBRATION OF HIS GREAT SALVATION

Celebration is an act of showing appreciation, it is during this time that, as we share wonderful memories with friends and families, we should also appreciate what the Lord has done for us. The story of Passover could have finished on a gloomy ending, if resurrection Sunday did not happen. I believe what separates our faith from all other faiths is not that our master died, because others died too, crucifixion did not start with the Lord Jesus, it was a custom to do so, the Lord was not the only one crucified. **BUT HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD.**

But you see what differentiates our Lord from all others is that His grave carries no bones, "He is alive". The apostle Paul 1 Cor 15:17 "if Christ was not raised from the dead then, then our faith is in vain (useless)" the true power of our faith is not reflected in miracles, signs and wonders or in powerful preaching and spirit-filled worship, **BUT IN RESURRECTION.** This is the time to celebrate His resurrection and our great hope and victory over death.

2 IT IS TIME FOR CONTEMPLATION OF HIS RETURN.

After His resurrection the scriptures record that the Lord was seen by many, and He moved around preaching the gospel of the kingdom for forty days. The Lord was taken up to heaven and the angel said "the same way that you see Him taken, He will come the same way.." What a great expectation of His return, the church is not left alone. We have a great anticipation of His coming. We live in the days where really a lot of signs are there and a lot of prophecies about His coming are fulfilled right in front of our own eyes. As we celebrate this Easter let's remind ourselves and others that the coming of the Lord, is closer than we can imagine.

Blessed Passover celebration to you and your loved ones.

“IT IS FINISHED” ...

Ps. Heather Bock

Telelestai

When Jesus had tasted it, He said, “It is finished!” Then He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.
John 19:28-30

Introduction

As we near Easter, the most important time in the born again believer’s life, we remember the final words of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: “It is finished.” A phrase that gives the believer confidence of forgiveness, freedom of sin, redemption and complete victory in Jesus.

“It is Finished”

In John 19:30 it is recorded the final words of Jesus was: “It is finished:” The phrase is actually the translation of one word, telestai, in the original language of the Bible. Tetelestai, the final word of Jesus is packed with power, meaning and significance. “It is finished” is translated from a Greek word tetelestai indicative passive tense of the word telos, which means to end, to bring to completion, to bring to conclusion, to complete, to accomplish, to fulfil, or to finish .

Firstly: Christ’s Obedience: A Full and Finished Work.

The word tetelestai was Jesus’ exclamation that He had finished the work the Father had sent Him to do. It has the same meaning as a servant who was sent to do a mission and then returns to his master declaring tetelestai, meaning, “I have done exactly what you requested” or “The mission is accomplished,” i.e. the suffering ordained by the Father was finished. Throughout the ministry of Jesus, He spoke of “the work” He was sent to do and the “hour” of trouble that He would face. He also spoke of the suffering that He must undergo. All these things were ordained by the Father (Isaiah 53:10). By crying out, tetelestai, Jesus declared that He had done all that the Father sent Him to do.

Secondly: Old Testament Types and Symbols Fulfilled

Tetelestai was equivalent to the Hebrew word which the high priest would say when presenting a sacrificial lamb (lamb without spot or blemish). Once a year the high priest would enter the Holy of Holies, where he poured out the blood of the spotless lamb on the Ark of the Covenant. As the blood fell on the mercy seat, atonement was made for the sins of the people (Leviticus 1-7). This was done every year by the high priest for the forgiveness of sin.

Jesus offered up his blood for the removal of our sin once and for all. He became the perfect sacrificial spotless lamb. Atonement had been perfected and fully accomplished.

Thirdly: The Sin-Debt “Paid in Full”

The word tetelestai was used in the business world to signify the full payment of a debt. When a debt had been fully paid off, the parchment on which the debt was recorded was stamped with tetelestai, which meant the debt had been paid in full.

Jesus paid the debt of sin in full when He died on the cross. As the songwriter, writes: “We owed a debt we could not pay; He paid a debt He did not owe” (Matthew 18:24).

Conclusion

Just consider the far-reaching implication of the word tetelestai. Jesus paid in full our debt to sin. Jesus became the Sacrificial Lamb and cancelled our debt. Thus, sickness, sin and death have no hold over us. Like Jesus we can declare, telestai, “It is finished.”

God's Word



One can never know where the seed of God's Word will fall, take root and grow. When placing a Bible in someone's hand, we do not know the details of how it will reveal the beauty of God and His love for us expressed through His son, Jesus Christ.

To receive a testimony like the one below from Miss Annah Masemola, a teacher at Makgake Primary School Willing hearts for God's Word in Hammanskraal, is an immeasurable blessing and reminder of why the Bible Society mission is so important. Pastor Christo Maree, a Bible Society Organising Secretary, provided the school with 600 copies of the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs upon Miss Masemola's request for Bibles for her learners. A couple of days later, he received the following message in response: "Thank you for the donation, Pastor Maree. I am honoured.

The Lord is at work, the Holy Spirit flooded the school as soon as I handed out the Bibles. The learners broke out into joyful praise songs, using their Bibles as accompanying instruments. They are always reading their Bibles, even during lessons. The Lord is touching their lives. Their parents are also overwhelmed and grateful.

Thank you so much for supporting my vision to supply our learners with the Word of God."

THE WORD OF GOD *Trumps All*

A timely donation of Bibles has allowed a pastor to beautifully illustrate how one should always rely on the Word of God. During the latter part of last year (2022), Pastor Christo Maree from the Bible Society visited the Full Gospel Church in Louis Trichardt. During his talk with the congregation he presented a number of New Testaments to the presiding pastor, Philip de Jager.

Some two weeks later, Pastor De Jager was preparing for a men's gathering. His theme was "What to do when what you read in black and white is only red?" and addressed the economic hardships felt all over, as well as the general despondency with the current state of affairs in the country. He even received a request from a local business man, asking the men's group to intercede for the local business people during their meeting the following day. "I purposely took some of these Bibles, with the words of Jesus printed in red, with me to the gathering.

During the meeting I spoke to the men about this theme. I impressed on them the necessity of allowing the Word of God to feed us in times of difficulty. It is the words of Jesus that will give us hope. That is what we do when what we read in black and white only shows red - we take God at His Word! God said it; we believe it!

Taken from Summer Sower 2022 (Page 16)





Philip de Jager

Hoe gemaak wanneer dit wat jy op wit en swart lees **net rooi wys?**

Op Donderdag 26 Mei 2022 sit ek in my kantoor. Besig om die oordenking vir ons manne byeenkoms van 27 Mei 2022 klaar te maak en om 'n WhatsApp advertensie gereed te kry om vir die manne te stuur. Ons noem die byeenkoms 'ManDaad.' By ManDaad wil ons elke MAN help om die DAAD by die WOORD te voeg.

Die ekonomie druk, en mense kry swaar. Sakemanne raak moedeloos. Meeste mense se gemoed is laag. Boonop het die huidige vlag misdaad in Louis Trichardt almal aan die praat. Voeg nog daarby ook die voortslepende probleme met dienslewering.

Dit is 'n bose en vyandige konkoksie wat demoraliserend op die gemoed van mense inwerk. Tye is taai. Die lewenskostes druk die mense in die rooi! Oortrokke in alle opsigte van die lewe: emosioneel, geestelik en finansiële. Ja, dinge is in die rooi. Nou verstaan jy ook die tema: Hoe gemaak wanneer dit wat jy op wit en swart lees net rooi wys?

Terwyl ek met die voorbereiding van die advertensie vir die WhatsApp groep besig was kry ek 'n WhatsApp boodskap van een van die sakemanne van ons dorp wat ook die manne se byeenkomste bywoon. Sy WhatsApp boodskap lees: "Ons as besigheidsmanne suig die stof uit die agterspeen. Kan ek 'n versoek doen dat ons more vir ons intree?" Toe ek die boodskap gekry het, was ek net op pad om die WhatsApp advertensie uit te stuur.

Tydens Pastoor Christo en Petro Maree se besoek aan die gemeente (15 Mei 2022) het hy onder andere vir my 'n paar Engelse Bybels gegee. Dit is Nuwe Testamente waarin die woorde van Jesus in rooi gedruk is. En dit is net hier waar die storie 'n wending neem. Ek het doelbewus 'n klomp van die Bybels saam met my na die ManDaad byeenkoms geneem.

Tydens die ManDaad byeenkoms gesels ek toe met die manne oor: "Hoe gemaak wanneer dit wat jy op wit en swart lees net rooi wys?" Ek laat toe egter die klem val op die noodsaaklikheid dat ons in swaar tye moet toelaat dat Woord van God ons geloof voed. Jesus se woorde sal ons met hoop besiel. Dit is wat ons doen wanneer dit wat ons op wit en swart lees net rooi wys -

ons vat God op sy Woord! God het dit gesê. Ons glo dit! Na die aanbieding het ons vir mekaar gebid en spesifiek vir die sakemanne wat teenwoordig was.

Ek het die manne aangemoedig om 'n Bybel te vat en hierdie nuus met ander te gaan deel: Ja, wanneer ons dit wat op wit en swart lees rooi wys - dan glo ons! Ons glo die Bybel! En is is steeds besig om die "rooi letter waarheid" oral te deel - en die mense skept moed!

Dit herinner my aan ons Here se woorde in rooi:

"Elkeen dan wat na hierdie woorde van My luister en dit doen, hom sal Ek vergelyk met 'n verstandige man wat sy huis op die rots gebou het" (Matt. 7:24).

Nkosi's

Jack B Chirwa

HAVEN CHILDREN'S HOME



The Full Gospel Church of God Jhb South have been holding services @ Nkosi's Haven Children's Home every second Saturday of the month. With assistance from the Sheriff's office, we also feed the Children right after the service.

On Saturday the 9th of April, we had our usual service but also donated blankets and other Easter goodies to the Children'. Thank you Petro Maree and Agape Bears for making a huge contribution. Thank you to the Sheriff's Office and members of the church as always.

From the beginning of 2021, The Full Gospel Church of God Jhb South has since partnered with Nkosi's Haven Children's Home in the South of Johannesburg. We as a church with the support of the Sheriff's office, visited the home twice a month to have services and end off with providing a meal for them. The home has both orphans and mothers who have been victims of gender based violence.

And from time to time we also have counseling sessions and prayer for the mothers as well.



WORLD Sheriff's DAY

Ps Jack & Serah Chirwa



The 10th of June was World Sheriff's Day, this is basically service to humanity as the way Mandela was. World Sheriff's Day has to do with free service and acts of good deeds.

Sheriff June Thomas from the Johannesburg South Office and Germiston North, decided to collaborate with the Women of Destiny from the Full Gospel Church of God Jhb South, to do manicures and pedicures on senior citizens at Reuven Old Age Home in West Turffontein on Saturday the 11th of June.

Both the Sheriff's staff and the Women from the Full Gospel Church came out in their numbers to spoil the senior citizens. The event ended with provision of lunch.

This good gesture comes from the understanding that these senior citizens are to be perceived as our own parents and therefore we need to honour them according to

Ephesians 6:2-3

"Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

We are Thankful for the opportunity to make a difference in our community, the senior citizens were so overwhelmed.

10th of June 2022



Christ Hospital Ministry

Ps Jack & Serah Chirwa

The Full Gospel Church of God Jhb South has since gone into partnership with Christ Hospital Ministry, A UK based Non-denominational Para Church organization, whose passion is preaching the gospel to the sick. Christ Hospital Ministry which has their presence in a few other countries, are coming to South Africa for the first time.

On the 11th Of March 2023, one of their representatives from Zambia, flew in to come and train some of our members on how to minister the gospel to the sick, we had a fruitful workshop from 9am to 4pm in the afternoon.

CHM is also going to guide in the future on how to host medical camps and health workshops for the community.



Pastor Christo Maree

YOUR ROLE IN A



Blessing

During July 2021 I was privileged to join an excellent Zoom Session on "Pastors' Finance and Ministry" by Pastor Jannie Calitz from Bet Shalom FGC, Polokwane.

He started off with the following challenging question: "Are you a recipient of a blessing or are you a distributor of a blessing?" He emphasized that it is great and sometimes even a miracle to receive a blessing, but we really need to grow to the point where we can be the distributors of what God has entrusted to us. We need to obey God's Word in terms of tithing BUT also giving more than just our tithes. We need to be offering and we need to be giving (not only money) and by that put seed in the ground to grow and be a blessing to the world around us. He also emphasized that we should give responsibly. God doesn't want us just to give to every Tom, Dick, and Harry out of guilt or for the sake of giving. Talk to God about your giving and give responsibly and be accountable.

This session prompted various thoughts in my mind, and I would like to share a few thoughts with you. As people of South Africa, we definitely live in difficult and challenging times. Various things are happening around us that have a direct impact on the church and on us as believers. I don't think I need to mention any of them.

In studying God's Word there are so many guidelines and promises coming to the fore. I think you will be able to add several of them to this article.

One of the scriptures that come to my mind, is Ephesians 5:15-17 (TPT) "So be very careful how you live, not being like those with no understanding, but live honorably with true wisdom, for we are living in evil times. Take full advantage of every day as you spend your life for His purpose."

We are reminded to live careful in these evil times and live honorably with true wisdom. We shouldn't live foolishly, but we need to take full advantage of every day to spend our lives for His purpose.

I believe one of the important purposes we need to live for, is to reach people for Jesus and to allow God to use us to have a positive impact on the lives of people we meet and even those we may never see or meet in person.

One of the many ways to do this, is to do good and be sowers of Hope. Galatians 6:9-10 (TPT) "And don't allow yourselves to be weary in planting good seeds, for the season of reaping the wonderful harvest you've planted is coming! Take advantage of every opportunity to be a blessing to others, especially to our brothers and sisters in the family of faith!"

The Word of God encourages us not to become weary in planting good seeds. By keeping on doing good, for sure there will be a season of reaping a wonderful harvest. Just recently I read this powerful statement from Robert H Schuller: "Anyone can count the seeds in an apple, but only God can count the number of apples in a seed." Therefore our statement in the beginning of this article 'God has created us and saved us to be distributors of blessings to people around us.'

The scripture reading in Galatians says: "Take advantage of every opportunity to be a blessing to others, especially to our brothers and sisters."

For those many congregations and congregants already involved in Bible work, I believe according to God's Word, that you will enjoy a season of reaping the wonderful harvest in your own lives and the lives of your loved ones BUT also will souls find Jesus through the Bibles you've made available.

If you're reading this article and you are not yet sowing in distributing God's Word, I want to invite you and encourage you to become a sower of hope. Come and experience the joy of being a distributor of hope and blessings.

Billy Graham said: "The greatest evangelist in the world is the published Word of God. The greatest method of evangelism is the distribution of Scripture. Not long after Bible distribution a church follows."

The Afrikaans (1983) translations says in Efesiërs 5:16: "Maak die beste gebruik van elke geleentheid, want ons lewe in 'n goddelose tyd."

Winston Churchill said: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Victory comes by reaching out to those in need, by giving of yourself.

May God use you as a distributor of blessings whenever you find the 'right' opportunity to sow good seeds.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION HELPS!

Become a sower of hope

BANKING DETAILS

Bible Society of SA, ABSA Kempton Park
Account number: 260 220 748 / Branch: 632 005
Reference with deposit: F/FGC + (Name and congregation)

Please email proof of EFT payment to: c.maree@biblesociety.co.za
OR WhatsApp to 0837644755 - Pastor Christo Maree.

Should you prefer a debit order, please send an email to c.maree@biblesociety.co.za
or WhatsApp to 0837644755, with the request.

The Bible Society launches new range of Bible-reading apps

Today's digital environment is the ideal medium not only to promote Bible reading, but also greater Bible engagement. Increasingly, more people prefer to read the Bible on their phones, tablets or computers.

Recently, the Bible Society of South Africa launched 13 Bible-reading apps that give people access to the Bible in all 11 official languages of our country. The respective apps comprise one or more complete Bible translations of a particular language and can be downloaded free of charge from Google Play (the apps will also be available on iOS and Huawei App Gallery at a later stage). These Bible-reading apps enable users to read the complete Bible text on their cell phones without having to be online to do so. Furthermore, various translations can be compared to each other, the reading experience can be adapted as needed and readers are able to share Bible verses with others.

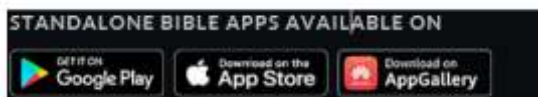
These apps are an extension of the Bible Society's digital offering that already includes the BibleSA Bible-study platform. BibleSA is a comprehensive online platform that currently comprises 38 translations, with Bibles in each of our official South African languages. Besides the convenience of having all the translations in one place, the platforms also boasts resources like sermon outlines and a preaching schedule for churches as well as Bible-reading plans and so much more.

According to Rev Dirk Gevers, Chief Executive Officer of the Bible Society of South Africa, the Bible Society's mission is to ensure that the Bible is available in suitable and accessible formats.

"The Bible Society took the decision to make the Bible freely available online in accordance with its mission a while ago. Just as it is important for us to make the Bible available to readers who prefer the Bible in print, it is also important to make the Bible available to those who increasingly prefer to read in an electronic format," Rev Gevers said.



Read the Bible online: www.BibleSA.co.za



FREE BIBLE APPS:

Apple App Store: <https://apps.apple.com/us/developer/bible-society-of-south-africa/id1013351195>

Google Play Store: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/developer?id=Bible+Society+of+South+Africa>

Huawei AppGallery: <https://appgallery.huawei.com/tab/appdetailCommon%7CC104910859%7Cautomore%7Cdoublecolumncardwithstar%7C903547>

HIS JOURNEY



OUR JOURNEY

Ps. Dominique Adonis

Have you ever wondered what things must have been like for Jesus as He journeyed to the Cross? I have read the gospels, watched The Passion of Christ but I often find myself thinking about what the hours before, on and after the Cross must have felt like for Jesus. What went through His mind, what transpired in His heart?

Can we ever really know this side of eternity what Jesus experienced and does it even really matter? I believe that it does. It matters because though Jesus was fully God, He was also fully man, like you and I, and therefore able to sympathise with our weaknesses, tempted as we are in every way - yet was without sin.

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.” - Hebrews 4:15 NIV

What we must understand is that Jesus was not like some demi-god who semi felt what life was like. No, He was alive in every way, present and fully engaged. Saints, Jesus died the death you and I should have died for sin, and how He faced what I call those “heart moments” provides a blue print if you will, for our own Cross journey.

When Covid hit, my daughter Tiffany, seemed perplexed and with good reason; the world has come to what felt and still feels like a screeching halt. The world was gripped by fear, panic and desperation because of the novel COVID-19 virus, which at the time of lock down, had claimed 58 004 lives. Our Commander-in-Chief, President Cyril Ramaphosa declared a state of disaster for our beloved country, South Africa. A hard lockdown was put in place in a bid to flatten the curve and stop precious lives from being lost. Schools were closed and non-essential workers had to stay home for 21 days. And true to form, Tiffany verbalised her total grief because the lock down also meant, or so she thought, that Easter was cancelled; and she wasn't the only one.



To my sheer horror, Christians also took to social media to verbalise this exact sentiment. I gently squeezed her shoulders and looked her square in the eyes and said, "no one can cancel Easter. Now, because of the lockdown, Easter might look and feel a little different, but Easter is in our hearts and nothing can lock down its power in our lives."

I would like to share with you just one of the "heart moments" that Jesus experienced on His journey to dying on the Cross. These heart moments matter because they reveal the heart of our Saviour and the heart the Holy Spirit is shaping in you and I. One of the lessons Easter teaches us is that Jesus journey to the cross is our journey daily and with each step of obedience our heart is being transformed and shaped to look and be like His heart. I believe the word for this transformation is sanctification. There are a number of "heart moments" but I'd like to encourage you with just one.

THE SILENT HEART

The silent heart is a powerful heart. If ever there was anyone who had all the authority and every right to defend themselves against the false accusations of the religious elite, it was Jesus. But He uttered not a word, His heart was silent, it was still. Not because He didn't speak or had nothing to say but because He was not intimidated, not moved, Jesus was unshakable, even in the face of death. Every word that would leave His mouth would be calm and collected; He would not raise His voice in retaliation or anger.

"He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet He never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, He did not open his mouth." - Isaiah 53:7 NLT

"But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor."
- Matthew 27:14 NIV

Jesus' trust in God's ability to fulfil His plan of salvation for mankind operated at a frequency only audible to those who knew the will of the Father. Mary, His mother heard him and soon His disciples would understand this frequency of quietness and trust. Jesus' silence spoke volumes. And the reason for this was because Jesus trusted God in spite of what He was facing.

When you can't trace God's hand will you trust His heart? Will you trust God in the mess, chaos, anxiety, depression? Will you trust God in the trauma and pain? When life is unfair and circumstances or allegations against you make no sense, will you still trust God?

"Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; He's the One who will keep you on track." - Prov.3: 5 MSG. To trust God in this text means to rely on, have confidence in and be secure in Him. The thing about trust is that it's required most when you're tested most. Anybody can trust God when He's showing up and flexing, when you feel loved, and your needs are being met. However,

trust is only truly trust when you can't sense God or see what He's doing, when you're scared out of your mind but you've decided to trust Him anyway, that's called trust.

Child of God, Jesus' Journey to the Cross teaches us that a silent heart is a heart that trusts in God and in His ability to work all things for our good. I believe it's Travis Green who said, "It's not happening to me, it's happening for me." God has the divine ability to use even the brokenness of people and our world to bring about His purposes and to deeply transform our hearts for our good and for His glory.

As a child I wondered if Jesus could defend Himself physically? As I studied the scriptures I realised that He could, and not only that He could but He also had the opportunity to. Jesus revealed the reality of legions of angels ready to come to His defence, they stood at attention waiting His command.

“Don’t you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and He would send them instantly?” - Matthew 26:53 NLT



But Jesus had already submitted His will to that of the Father (Luke 22:42); He would go to the Cross and He would not allow His mouth to betray Him. Truth be told, Jesus could have used the very law they used against Him and bring it back onto their own heads - because the arrest, trial and verdict were illegal. A trial held at night? Not enough witnesses? Perjury? For all intents and purposes, none of the testimonies lined up!

If you had a button you could press every time you needed a different outcome to a difficult situation would you press it? A few years ago, I know I would. But Jesus’ journey to the Cross has taught me that not all storms come to destroy, some come to clear the path. Not all fiery furnaces consume us, not every Lion’s den will devour us and not every tomb can hold us down.

Jesus possessed a silent heart and so can we, but only when we trust God. It doesn’t mean we won’t speak up or say something important, it just means that like Jesus on His journey to the Cross, when we speak, because of our trust in God, we can speak truth, revelation, reconciliation, promise of paradise and forgiveness.

LET US PRAY

Father, there are times when I spitefully want to have the last word, defend myself or be contentious, forgive me. Holy Spirit lead me into all truth, silence my heart and fill my mouth with what to say, when to say it and how to say it. Empower me to speak with grace, mercy and conviction from a place of quietness and trust in You.



“Silence is one of the deepest disciplines of the Spirit simply because it puts the stopper on all self-justification. One of the fruits of silence is the freedom to let God be our justifier. We don’t need to straighten others out.”

Richard J. Foster

SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

**Proverbs 17:27-28, Proverbs 19:20-21,
Ecclesiastes 3:7, James 1:19, 1Peter 3:15-16**

Rev. H.D. Makhubele

THE POWER OF

Close Proximity

How close are you to God? In His Presence

In times like these we need to ask ourselves a very critical question. How close are we to God? How near are we to the most High God? Most of us fast and pray, and earnestly so, but how close are we to the One we are calling?

In the natural realm there is what I call the Law of a close range. No matter how strong one is if one throws a stone or a blow from afar the impact will be minimal. No matter how effective and fatal the machine gun could be, if one shoots it from afar the impact will be very poor and insignificant.

Ask all people who deal with weapons of mass destruction they will tell you how important the range is. They will also testify that whenever they shoot the target at a close range the results are always wonderful.

This phenomenon is not only confined to the effect and impact of the weapon's power, but also to the accuracy of hitting the target. The closer you are to the target the easier it is not to miss. No matter how skilled one is in shooting, if one shoots from a distant range the likelihood will be to miss or hit the target minimally.

I have observed that the laws of nature are a



shadow of the laws that operate in the spirit realm. This means that we can convince ourselves that we are Christians and that we are walking with God but being very far from him. I know that with God there is no distance or any limitation. But with us there is. Many of us wonder why we fast and pray so much but receiving meager results. We get frustrated and ask why.

Draw closer unto God and He will also draw closer to you. Jesus says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, I will give you rest (Matt. 11: 28)." Hebrews 11:5-6 says, "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

While Hezekiah was bargaining with God, appealing for life, he says, "I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight."

And Hezekiah wept sore (bitterly) (11Kings 20: 3). Psalm 91: 1)says, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." This law of close proximity works in various settings. It supplements the law of physical contact. Electricity, love, driving, sailing, inventions, manufacturing, eating, bathing/washing, writing, typing, etc. obey the law of close proximity.

You see, prayer means vital contact with the Father. We are near enough to Him to breathe in His very presence.

Prayer means we have come boldly into the throne room and are standing in His presence. It is going into the presence of the Father and Jesus in an executive meeting, laying our needs before them and making our requisitions for ability, for grace, healing for someone, or victory for someone, or for financial needs. Whatever that need may be, we are making a demand upon Him (Kenyon, 2003:8).

The Law of close proximity plays a major role in love and all productive relationships.

Even though we can demonstrate love from a distance, close and physical contact enforces and enhances strong intimacy. I know that they say, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder", but they also say, "Out of sight, out of mind."

What I want to emphasize brethren is that we should strive to draw nearer to God in love, fellowship, communion, prayer, praise and worship. Let us fortify our intimate relationship with God.

Among other things this can be achieved by continually developing our listening skills, communication skills, timing mode, problem solving skills, patience, humility and sincerity.

The word of God says, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength (Is. 40:1) Wait on the Lord patiently and believe the Word more than human opinion. God bless you.



WHAT SAYETH THE LORD ABOUT *Trust in Marriage*

Scripture: 1 Corinthian 13:7 - Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting

One of the most common challenges married couples face is trust. Trust in marriage is a state where husband and wife are able to rely and count on each other. It is the confidence that a person has in another. It is about feeling safe with another person.

Without trust it is difficult to maintain a healthy marriage. A marriage that lacks trust is a marriage in difficulty. There is no marriage that can thrive without trust. Trust is an indispensable ingredient in building and maintaining a healthy marriage.

Trust takes time to build or rebuild, but it only takes one event or mistake to be broken; and once broken, it is difficult to gain it back due to the fear of being hurt. When trust is breached, spouses can become very angry, suspicious and watchful of each other, and this can continue for quite some time. Both husband and wife have a role to play in creating trust in their marriage.

There is nothing that can damage trust in a marriage like infidelity. Rebuilding trust can be very challenging when there has been a significant breach of trust such as in the case of infidelity. However this does not mean that a marriage cannot be salvaged when there is been unfaithfulness. It becomes easier if both spouses are committed to the process, irrespective of who the unfaithful spouse was.

Remember words, promises and gifts do not restore trust instead it is the trustworthy behaviors and actions that will contribute to the restoration of trust.

If you have been betrayed, it is never too late to trust again. It takes time and definitely patience but working through the pain will lead to a happy and healthy marriage again. It is very possible to rebuild trust if both spouses are willing to work together to restore trust between them. All you have to do is to give your spouse and yourself another chance.

WAYS TO HELP BUILD TRUST IN YOUR MARRIAGE.

To build trust you must ensure that any promise you make can be kept, if not to the letter, at least in some way that shows that you tried to fulfill the promise. In the course of my counselling ministry I have realized that one other mistake couples make in their marriages is that actually overpromise and underdeliver.

To build trust in your marriage you must be consistent, reliable and dependable. The disconnect between your words and your actions can seriously damage trust in any marriage. When building trust in a marriage, you must keep your promises to your spouse and your family. Before making any promise, consider carefully what might come up to prevent you from following through. Ensure that any promise you make can be kept, if not to the letter, at least in some way that shows that you tried to fulfil the promise.

Don't neglect the prioritization of honesty in your relationship. Do what you said you'd do, and don't forget the negative impact of little white lies. Telling your partner you didn't do something when you actually did do it (or vice versa) might not seem like a big deal, but over time, frequent white lies can easily erode trust in a relationship.

One of the problems created by couples is that they don't talk about the past - things you may be hiding from your partner always have a way of coming out - and when they do, they will erode trust because you never talked about them when you had an opportunity

Another thing, I have discovered is that betrayals and disappointments experienced in past relationships can cause one to have challenges trusting their spouse. Spouses who struggle with trusting because of what happened in previous relationships have to do their best to move past hurts. Past hurts, don't have to be passed hurts.



Advice

My advise for couples experiencing trust issues is that they put their trust in God for healing. Couples must also consider going for counselling. Couples should remember that, it is not only the offending spouse who needs to work in rebuilding trust, the wounded spouse also needs to become a willing partner in the process as well.

There is a misunderstanding of what trust entails. People think that rebuilding trust is has to do with forgiving someone. I submit that forgiving someone and trusting them are two different acts of faith. You can forgive a person without trusting but you cannot trust a person without first forgiving. I would like to make couples aware that they don't have to trust one another before forgiving each other.

My advise to those who are not yet married is that they must heal before they say "I do". I also advise people never to enter into marriage without going for premarital counselling.

Rev. TL Mashiloane has been married for 23 years. He is an Ordained Minister in the Full Gospel Church of God in SA; and is the Presiding Pastor of City of Love & Restoration in Sasolburg. He is also the CEO of HospiVision (NPC). (www.hospivision.org.za). For further advise and counselling, please contact Rev Mashiloane on 061 446 7294 / revmashiloane@gmail.com

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I pray that you help us to take time to enjoy life together as married couples. I pray that there be fun and laughter in our marriages. May you give us wisdom to keep the fire of our love burning. Help us to always be aware of the little foxes that may cause us to be apart as married couples. This I pray in the wonderful and mighty name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Amen.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – ANNOUNCEMENT!!!!

Bible Sunday

IN THE FULL GOSPEL CHURCH OF GOD IN SA
SUNDAY – 27 AUGUST 2023

The Executive Council of the Full Gospel Church officially approved that the Church as a whole will celebrate the Bible in our Country and that we can still freely translate, publish, subsidise and distribute the Bible in South Africa. Thank God that in August the 23rd the Bible Society of SA will be celebrating 203 years of Bible work in South Africa and through these 203 years the miracle working hand of God was experienced amongst a lot of testimonies to translate the Bible in all eleven official languages and distribution of more than 45 million Bibles in South Africa.

Celebration Bible

90 YEARS!

SUNDAY – 27 AUGUST 2023

The first delivery of the Bible in Afrikaans arrived in Cape Town on 29 May 1933. Up to today the Lord was so good to us as Afrikaans speaking believers that we still have the 1933/53 translation to read the Bible in our own mother tongue. Praise God for His protection of this particular Bible for this past 90 years in Afrikaans! The Bible Society of SA will embark on various activities to celebrate this wonderful achievement by God's grace. I will keep you posted via our Head Office and some information will even be available in the Media.

**WILL YOU PLEASE JOIN US IN BOTH THESE CELEBRATIONS AS A CHURCH!
PLEASE TAKE NOTE AND ACTION YOUR INVOLVEMENT!!!**



MUCH FUN ON Bible Sunday

Pastor Christo Maree



Every year the congregations of the Full Gospel Church (FGC) across the country celebrate Bible Sunday on the last Sunday in August. The FGC congregation of Sinoville in Gauteng went all out for this year's Bible Sunday hosting a family day that also included a walk for Bibles. Some 270 participants entered the walk and could choose from distances ranging from one to 10 kilometres. There were also a number of other activities to keep both young and old occupied, including motorcycle trip.

The congregation was privileged for the fact that the Secretary General of the Full Gospel Church, Pastor Renier Pelser did the cutting of the ribbon to officially start the walk/run and the activities of the day.

Taken from the Summer Sower 2022 (Page 6)



Pastor Christo Maree

COPYRIGHT & *The Bible*

Have you ever wondered why the Bible Society has the copyright of Bible text?

Bible Society Legal Officer Kurt Mosselini answers some frequently asked questions:

What is Copyright?

It is a simple set of rights afforded to the party who creates a work, and the Bible text falls under the definition of a literary work. Because the Bible Society has conducted these Bible text translations, copyright is granted to the organisation by operation of law.

Why is there a copyright of Bible text?

Translating Bible text from the source text into a new translation is quite a long and arduous process. As a result, if the work is deemed original and reduced to material form, that gives the Bible Society copyright of the Bible text.

Why is it important to have a copyright of Bible text?

Aside from the fact that the Bible translation process is intensive, the core focus is also to ensure that the translated Bible text is as accurate as possible. That places responsibility on the Bible Society to ensure that when we publish, it is authentic. We also play the role of upper guardian of Bible text, which means taking action against any individual or entity who wants to abuse the text or commit copyright infringement.

When does copyright expire?

The South African Copyright Act provides a guideline which tells us that 50 years after an author's death, the copyright ends in a particular work. Specific texts have been within the public domain for a long time, such as the King James Version, published in the 1600s. It's fair to assume that those who translated that version are no longer around and it is thus not subject to copyright.



INTENSIVE SPIRITUAL ACTION ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE

Top 5 Courses:

PRAYER GUIDE.

Could you not tarry one hour?
 According to a survey Ministers pray an average of 4 minutes per day and members 10 seconds per day.

HOW TO GET YOUR MEMBERS BACK IN CHURCH AFTER THE LOCKDOWN?

How to double your membership numbers in one year. How to experience growth in attendance in one week.

THE FUNCTIONING OF THE BODY OF CHRIST.

How to change from a program-based congregation to the Functioning of the Body of Christ.

SEVEN VITAL SIGNS OF A HEALTHY AND GROWING CHURCH

With six or more signs the congregation grows. Five signs; stagnation. Four or less; deterioration.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.

Five levels of Leadership. The calling of the Pastor and the Congregation. What is the Congregation's greatest asset?

Enquiries:

Contact Pastor Tienie Berrangé
 tberrange@telkomsa.net
 083 456 0946

We are planning three ISAAC Conferences

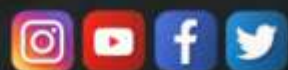
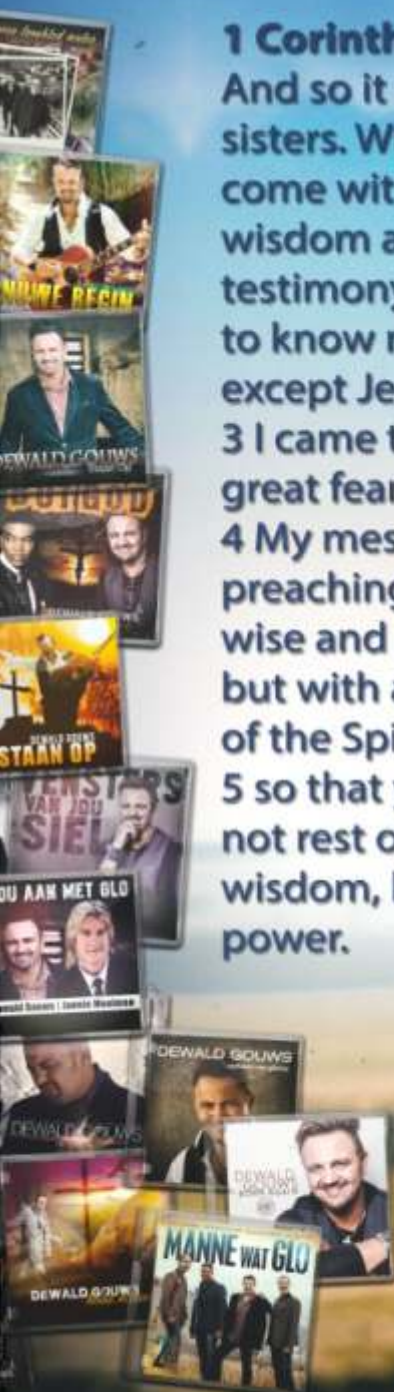
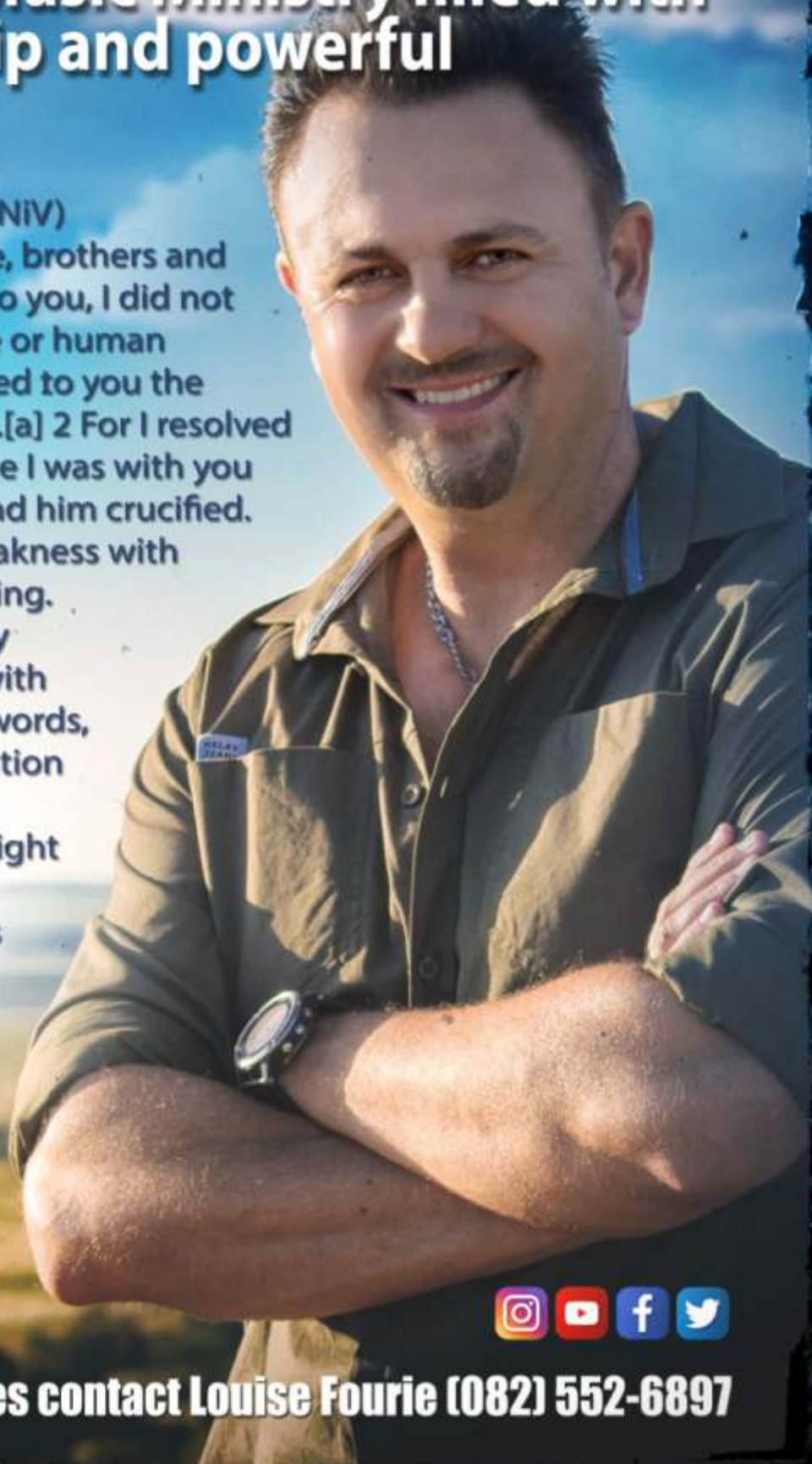
**WE ARE
 HERE TO
 SERVE YOU!**

Book your next event with **DEWALD GOUWS**

“A Passionate Music Ministry filled with Praise & Worship and powerful testimonies.”

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (NIV)

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.[a] 2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. 4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.



For bookings or enquiries contact Louise Fourie (082) 552-6897