



East Claremont Congregational Church Newsletter

A gospel community on mission!

CHALLENGE – February 2012

Editorial



Rather a strange phenomenon is taking place in Greyton at the moment – something which usually only happens in autumn. Our willow trees are losing quite a few of their leaves. All over, leaves of green, brown and gold are fluttering down. Of course, this isn't a joke for poor Ronnie, who is responsible for the cleaning of the swimming pool, which needs to remain clean, blue and sparkling for the guests who frequent our accommodation business.

We have heard that this leaf-shedding occurs when the weather is too hot and the trees get rid of some of their leaves so that they have less “tree” to cater for as far as water usage is concerned. However, we have been blessed with a gentle rain right throughout last night and it continues to rain gently today. Hallelujah!! How we prayed for this. God is good!

Isn't it good to know that we as Christians need never have a shortage of the water from the River of Life? How often we take our Lord and Saviour for granted, not realising the abundance of the gift that He has given us. How wonderful to have a Saviour and Lord Who will never leave nor forsake us.

The only leaves we need to shed are those found in the baggage that we tend to carry around with us, as well as those things that we do that we know are ungodly and should be discarded as soon as possible. Anything that stands between us and our Majestic Master shouldn't be tolerated in our lives. He gave so much for us! What are we going to give for Him?

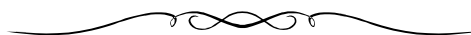
The River of God that flows from His throne is an incredible River of holiness, joy, peace and everything else that God is and that He wishes for us. Let's make this a year of getting off the banks and our feelings of safety and security and plunging into the depths of the River where we can be guided and led by Him.

There is a river that flows from God above,
There is a fountain that is filled with His great love;
Come to the water, there is a vast supply;
There is a river that never shall run dry.

Enjoy your February issue of the Challenge!

Blessings

Melody Graham
Challenge Editing Team



From the study

In word, in deed



Whether or not you realise it, you project an identity that is evaluated by those with whom you work. You have a professional persona: a way of interacting with others, a way of dealing with problems, a way of dealing with authority and a way of working for success. This is how people know you at work and how you know other people at work.

But here is a question for you: how does your Christianity impact on your professional persona? Consider the following kinds of people (perhaps you're like one of them):

- ❑ Jonathan, a family physician, rarely discusses his faith while at work. Instead, he spends his lunch hour reading his Bible in the seclusion of his office. Yet his staff considers him the most Christian man they know.
- ❑ Maria, a Call Centre Supervisor, has religious symbols and scriptures plastered all over her very visible, glass-walled office. She makes it a point to tell everyone from the janitor to the Vice President that she serves Jesus Christ. Many in her office find her tactics offensive.
- ❑ Leona, a bank official, seldom talks about God with her co-workers, but she quietly prays over each of their desks before she clocks in each morning. She believes her perfect attendance record, quality of work, and her prayers will do more to bring her co-workers to Christ than anything she could say.
- ❑ Victor, a chemical engineer, looks for prayer opportunities at work. If a co-worker tells him their problems, he listens attentively, and then responds gently "Can we pray together right now, and ask Jesus to meet your need?"¹



So who is right and who is wrong? That's a great question to ask, but not as easy to answer! Part of the answer is that different people have different ways of expressing their Christianity in the workplace. Not everybody is a Peter or a Paul. But at the same time all Christians must feel the need to witness. Do you let your actions speak for themselves or do you tell everyone about Jesus all the time? I think the Bible presents to us the tension of "word and deed" and we should fight to hold onto both.

¹ Example from article by Debbie Simler-Goff

In deed

Firstly, the way you do what you do is an important witness to your faith. There is equal dignity in all kinds of different honest professions – so the work that you do is not as important as the way that you do it. Here are a couple of ways in which our Christianity should affect us at work:

- ❑ Do your job to the best of your ability, as if you're doing it for Christ. (Ecclesiastes 9:10, Colossians 3:23);
- ❑ Don't be antiauthoritarian or subversive to your superiors (Eph 6:5-8);
- ❑ Do not let office gossip get the better of you (Proverbs 11:13);
- ❑ Act kindly, lovingly and graciously towards everyone in the office (I Corinthians 13:4);
- ❑ Give credit to those who deserve credit (Romans 12:10);
- ❑ Help your fellow workers to shine, even if it means they do better than you do (Philippians 2:3).

In word

Secondly, and building upon the foundation of the first, we are to speak gospel words of peace, love, grace, encouragement and conviction. The gospel is “Good News”, and news is meant to be published. The gospel is a message to be shared; it's a story to be told! Now if you have a terrible work ethic, if you treat people with hate rather than love and slander them behind their backs then don't try and say anything about Jesus – you'll do more damage than good! But, as you build up a testimony of faithfulness, grace and integrity at work, you should use the opportunities you have to speak about why you are the person you are.



Jesus came “proclaiming the good news of God” (Mark 1:14) and he commissioned his followers to do the same (Matt 28:20, Acts 1:8). There is only so much of the gospel that you can communicate through your deeds and then you HAVE to say something, you have to speak about your First Love, you have to speak about grace, forgiveness and reconciliation.

We should be striving and grappling to hold together the tension of proclaiming with “word and deed”, not divorcing the two and creating an unbiblical emphasis on either “word” or “deed”.

So how do your co-workers see you? How do you want them to see you? Does your Christianity influence your professional persona? Do you feel compelled to share your faith at work when it is appropriate? If Jesus Christ were to do your annual review at your job, how would he evaluate your performance?

God bless

Grant, Joanne, Seth and Ben



The minister's memo ...

Those needing prayer and care

- ❑ Those facing cancer: Melvin Black, Carol Hubbard, Cailin (John and Kate Philip's daughter), Elizabeth Tromp, Phyl Bryant, Derek Peers, Rob Lloyd and each of their families
- ❑ Paddy Case, Elizabeth Enslin, Penny Hoffman, Christen Pietersen, and Nadia Rinquet– all working/studying overseas for a period of time.
- ❑ Those whom we visit with communion: Sue Herringer, Phyl Bryant.
- ❑ Betty Jones who is on oxygen most of the time
- ❑ Rory Attwood – having trouble with his hands in the mornings
- ❑ Rosemarie who is needing a back operation



God Bless

Grant Peers



*All Challenge articles are due on the 20th of the month.
Contributors please note:- Articles for the Newsletter should not exceed an A4 half-page typed or A4 full-page hand written, (250 words). Unfortunately photographs involve scanning so are not usually accepted **unless** they are digital photographs.
(Please see the note below regarding this.) **Editing team.***

Digital photographs

For those of you who send articles into the Challenge, if you have any digital photographs relating to your article, please could you send them in JPEG format (jpg) to Melody Graham at the following email address – Melody.Graham@gmail.com.

Did you know.... You can download the transcript of Grant's sermon each week from the church website (www.eccc.org.za). You'll also find the cell group questions for the coming week there.

You can even download the latest copy of the Challenge from the website. Remember the colour copy of the Challenge is much more attractive than the black and white version ... and to have your own personal pdf copy emailed to you, just send a request by email to kanderson@escs.org.za and we'll put you on the mailing list!

The Lord says, "If you love me and truly know who I am,
I will rescue you and keep you safe.
When you are in trouble, call out to me.
I will answer and be there to protect and honor you.
You will live a long life and see my saving power."
(Psalm 91:14-16 cev)



Of this and that

HOP ALONG TO SOCIAL MORNING

Join us in Craven Hall on the last Thursday of every month at 10h30



***S**uper Entertainment*

***O**utstanding Fellowship*

***C**aring People*

***I**nteresting Guest Speakers*

***A**nnual Outings*

***L**ots of Refreshments*

For more information, contact Anne Snyders on (021) 671 8732

The Friendship Club

The Friendship Club is a group of women of many ages. We meet on the first Tuesday of every month and take turns in hosting the group.

We meet to discuss matters of interest, the latest news and anything else that may pop up.

We also enjoy tea, delicious eats and the sense of community that having this brings.

If you are interested in joining us, we would love to see you.

Phone **Jill Greer** (021) 671-1664



Hire of the hall:

The rate for hire is available on request.

Please contact Jill Greer
on 021 671 1664

It is also possible to borrow the church's tables and chairs (excluding the metal tables) for functions.

Challenge by email?

If you would like to have your copy of the Challenge sent to you by email, please send your email address to Karen Anderson (kanderson@escs.org.za) and we'll add you to the email list.

Once the Challenge is posted on the church website, we'll be able to send you a link enabling you to download and print your own copy of the Challenge.

Church trailer for hire

Contact – Dave Watts – (021) 671-5574

Ongoing requests

Donations needed for the Maranatha Chatsworth Food Kitchen Project – Rice, lentils, dried beans, soya mince, sunflower oil, pocket potatoes, onions, pepper, stock cubes. Contact **Jacqui Sterrenberg**

Donations of unwanted wool – for blankets for the babies at Little Angels – Hand to **Heather Heiberg** at Church or contact **Rosemary Hacha** on 021 671 4736 or 084 846 2824

Bread tags for wheelchairs – Please don't forget to collect these and put in the glass jar in the foyer of the church. The tags are sold to a recycling company and every 270 kg collected pays for a wheelchair. Sasko and Kwikloc, the tag manufacturers, have also pledged to donate two wheelchairs for every one wheelchair that is "bought" with the tags. Contact **Jaqui Sterrenberg**

Old style rectangular canvas camp cots (with the fixed plywood base on a fold up metal tube frame). Any donations of these are welcome. Any available mattresses would also be a bonus. Please phone 021 785 4049 between 9:00 and 13:00 weekdays and ask for **JP**.

ECCC banking details (for direct deposits):

Account name: East Claremont Congregational Church

Bank: First National Bank

Account number: 50170468844

Clearing Code (Branch code): 201509

Account type: Current account

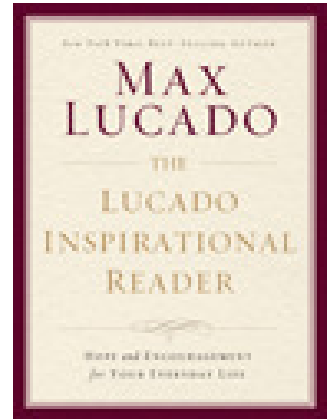


I walked one day - a little way
 Along a path overshadowed by trees
 And as the sun shone through - I bowed to You
 As the wind rustled through the leaves
 Lord take my hand - You understand
 When sometimes the road seems shadowy and long
 I'll never fear - for You are near
 As my heart overflows with your song!!
PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!!

Just Believe

It was small enough to overlook. Only two words. I know I'd read that passage a hundred times. But I'd never seen it.

But I won't miss it again. It's highlighted in yellow and underlined in red. You might want to do the same. Look in Mark, chapter 16. Get your pencil ready and enjoy this jewel in the seventh verse (here it comes). The verse reads like this: "But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee."



Did you see it? Read it again. (This time I italicized the words.)

"But go; tell his disciples *and Peter* that he is going before you to Galilee."

Now tell me if that's not a hidden treasure.

If I might paraphrase the words, "Don't stay here, go tell the disciples," a pause, then a smile, "and especially tell Peter, that he is going before you to Galilee."

What a line. It's as if all of heaven had watched Peter fall — and it's as if all of heaven wanted to help him back up again. "Be sure and tell Peter that he's not left out. Tell him that one failure doesn't make a flop."

Whew!

No wonder they call it the gospel of the second chance.

Those who know these types of things say that the Gospel of Mark is really the transcribed notes and dictated thoughts of Peter. If this is true, then it was Peter himself who included these two words! And if these really are his words, I can't help but imagine that the old fisherman had to brush away a tear and swallow a lump when he got to this point in the story.

It's not every day that you get a second chance. Peter must have known that. The next time he saw Jesus, he got so excited that he barely got his britches on before he jumped into the cold water of the Sea of Galilee. It was also enough, so they say, to cause this backwoods Galilean to carry the gospel of the second chance all the way to Rome where they killed him. If you've ever wondered what would cause a man to be willing to be crucified upside down, maybe now you know.

It's not every day that you find someone who will give you a second chance—much less someone who will give you a second chance every day.

But in Jesus, Peter found both.

From [Lucado Inspirational Reader](#)

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Thoughts for the month

True and False Humility

Philippians 2:3-5

(3) Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; (4) do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. (5) Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,")

Let me give you 3 examples, and consider which is the best display of humility:

Example 1: A teenage girl walks to school with her head down and a chip on her shoulder. She often utters to herself – "I'm fat, stupid, and ugly."

Example 2: A man talks to his friends about his terrible job – he doesn't brag about his job because he hates his job, but he dominates the conversation with talks of how terrible his job is.

Example 3: A woman talks with her friends. She interjects briefly, but for the most part she listens to what her friends have to say.

The real example of humility is of course example number 3. The other two are not really displaying humility. Example number 1 is an example of 'low self esteem.' Low self esteem is **not** the same as the quality of humility! Example number 2 is really displaying pride! It's difficult to see because he's not saying something positive about himself, but by dominating the conversation with facts about himself he says, "My life is very interesting! Everybody look at me!" This is not humility – it's pride. The third example displays a mature soul who does not draw attention to herself. She is not consumed with thoughts about herself but shows interest in other people. Applying this to the Christian life – Christian humility is shown when a believer dwells primarily on God and God's glory and not his or her own self-image.

CS Lewis put it like this: "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less".

Let us be a people who do not obsess with our own issues and self-image – but on God's kingdom and glory.

From:

<http://www.heprayed.com/PracticalDevotions/>

Congratulations for **Birthdays** go to the following folk in February:

2nd Mrs S Palframan
4th Melody.Graham
7th Millie van Huffel
10th Claire Byrne
11th Jill Greer
15th Hilary Scholtz
18th Edith van Zyl
26th Maureen Ditchfield



Wedding anniversaries
for February:

1st Mr & Mrs Gerald & Violet Black
8th Mr & Mrs Fred & Joy Ross



Blessings to all on their Special Days.



Jesus, Lover of my Soul
Jesus, I'll never let You go!

THE HANDY CORNER

GENT'S HAIRSTYLIST - Rosemary Hacha - 021 671 4736/084 846 2824

LADIES' & GENTS' HAIR STYLIST - Yvonne Legg - 021 671 5908

BUYING & SELLING OF MOTOR CARS, BAKKIES & LDV's - Ron Wilson - 084 608 8925

SELLING OR BUYING A HOME? Diane Hosty - 082 775 2777. (Referrals paid)

TO SELL OR BUY COMFORTABLE HOMES - Elizabeth Tromp - 021 671 5846. (Referrals paid)

VALERIE JEAN'S CATERING SERVICE - Valerie Jean Oliphant - 021 697 5626/072 234 9579

ELECTRICIAN/HANDYMAN - Clyde Oliphant - 021 697 5626/072 643 4949

ELDERLY/HOUSE/PETS-SITTING AND CARING - Janine Alger - 021 683 0598/082 789 1720

HOUSE-SITTER OR WATCHER also CLEAN & FIXIT - Steven - 072 328 2673

ALTERATIONS / KNITTING - Connie Meyer - 021 6715908

*Any member who wishes to have their name placed on the above list,
please let the Editing Team know before the 20th of the month.*

Tea Roster

February/March

The Morning Tea after Service will be run as usual by the Home Cell Groups.



Any nice little bits and pieces for THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH? Do let us have them by the 20th of the month

Do we have a record of your birthday or wedding anniversary?

Even if you are not a member of the church but you attend regularly, drop us an email at kanderson@escs.org.za and Melody.Graham@gmail.com

and we'll ensure you get your birthday wish.

Flower Roster

February

5th M van Huffel
12th J Bairstow
19th T Hyde
26th E Roos

March

4th R Attwood
11th K Havenga
18th F Hanslo
25th J Peers



Flowers and More in Belvedere Business Park have very kindly agreed to give our ECCC members 20% discount on flowers bought there for the Church. They will of course need to show the **Challenge List** with their name on it when buying.

Dear "flower arrangers"

Thank you very much for serving the Lord in this way with your beautiful arrangements provided every week - they are much enjoyed and appreciated by all! The flowers are usually taken by Grant to someone in need, so if they could be left as a donation in the church on the Sunday, they will provide a further blessing during the week.

Thank you and God Bless you all

Elaine

Shirley and Marcy

A mother was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe. So she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbour if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, So he probably wouldn't notice her. She said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed. The next school day, the neighbour and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbour girl he knew. She did this for the whole week.



As the two walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy 's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally she said to Timmy,

'Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?'

Timmy nonchalantly replied, 'Yeah, I know who she is.'

The little girl said, 'Well, who is she?'

'That's just Shirley Goodnest,' Timmy replied, 'and her daughter Marcy.'

' Shirley Goodnest ? Who the heck is she and why is she following us?'

'Well,' Timmy explained, 'every night my Mum makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much.

And in the Psalm, it says, ' Shirley Goodnest (surely goodness) and Marcy (mercy) shall follow me all the days of my life', so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!'

Message from the Youth Pastor



I love our Friday evening youth group. They are so much fun and we all have so much fun together; they are such an amazing group of teenagers.

Over the past six months the group has grown from about 8 to a consistent 12. The growth has been really exciting. Many of the teens attend because of the amazing community that our Friday evening provides for them; the games are amazingly exciting too. Our Friday night youth group has blessed many teenagers with a group of friends who really care and listen to one another.

This is all very exciting but if it ends there; at excitement and a loving community we will have achieved nothing. I'm a youth pastor because I believe that Jesus is able to drastically change the lives of teenagers; that his love for them transforms them into people who will make a difference in their schools, families and ultimately make a difference in our country.

I want to see Jesus make breakthrough with the many non-Christians who love attending our youth group. I'm not content with them just having fun, I want them to meet Jesus personally.

This can happen if we are praying for it to happen. Please join me in praying for them.

Please set aside some time each week to pray for Brendan, Kelsey, Matthew, Nathan, Alistair, Demi, Emily, Thomas, Anthony, Ines, Tracey, Kairos, Shannah.

That Jesus confront them with his unbelievable love for them



Much love
Nick Thomson
 Youth Pastor



Income and expenditure

The Income and Expenditure statement will be available on request from the treasurer or as a hard copy at church meetings.

Church directory

Description	Person/s responsible	Tel. No.	Cell. No.
Church Office		021 674 6819	
Minister	Rev G Peers	021 683 9680	083 681 6803
Secretary & Wayside Pulpit	G Laubscher	H: 021 671 0862 W: 021 674 1820	
Min Secretary (church)	B Anderson	021 671 4688	
Min Secretary (deacons)	N Thomson	H: 021 683 6787 W: 021 674 2077	082 588 9374
Treasurer & Tithing	B Wehrli	021 671 5474	
Children's Church Superintendent	N Case	H: 021 683 6787 W: 021 674 2077	082 588 9374
Social Morning & Craft class	A Snyders	021 671 8732	
Challenge Editing Team	K Anderson M Graham	021 671 4608 028 254 9638	083 698 3236 072 219 6380
Youth Pastor	N Thomson	021 674 6819	078 744 4333
Mission awareness / Outreach	J Sterrenberg		083 461 8147
Mission awareness / Pastoral	P & B Anderson	021 671 4688	083 422 3490
Regional Council Rep	P Anderson	021 671 4688	083 422 3490
Flowers	E Roos	021 671 1227	072 811 5467
Friendship Club / Celebration teas / Hiring of hall	G Greer	021 671 1664	
Library	M Jones	021 671 2483	082 707 7931
Worship Group	Mike Begg	021 685 2293	
Bible Fellowship / Cell groups	C Macallan M Jones	021 671 5574 021 671 2483	082 707 7931
Birthdays & anniversaries	M van Rensburg	082 673 1826	
Love Loaves	W Kalis		082 575 7169
Cleaning Dept	C Meyer	021 671 5908	
Property Steward	P Goliath	021 703 2106	
Property Steward & Memorial plaques	D Watts	021 671 5574	
Garden	R de Villiers S Palframan	021 671 5658 021 671 4409	
Organ	J Ross	021 696 6105	
Social & Fellowship events	S Palframan	021 671 4409	
	D Hosty	021 761 4468	

Our God is a consuming fire!!



The month at a glance

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 The Marriage Course 1	2	3	4
5 Communion Sunday	6	7 Friendship Club @ 10:30 Book Club @ 20:00	8 The Marriage Course 2	9	10	11 Trip to Chatsworth
12	13 Craft class @ 14:00	14	15 The Marriage Course 3	16	17	18
19	20	21 Deacons Meeting @ 19:30	22 The Marriage Course 4	23 Social Morning Outing	24	25
26 Church Family Picnic Day	27	28	29 The Marriage Course 5			

What's happening each week:

Sunday - 9:15

Morning Family Service with Children's Church

Sunday - 18:00

Evening Meeting

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Cell groups: Morning and evening
(Cell groups and Youth groups take a break during the school holidays)

Thursday - 19:00

Prayer meeting in Church Lounge

Friday - Youth

Junior 17:00-18:30
Senior 19:00-21:30

Upcoming Events:

The Marriage Course

Wednesday evenings: 1 Feb. to 14 March

