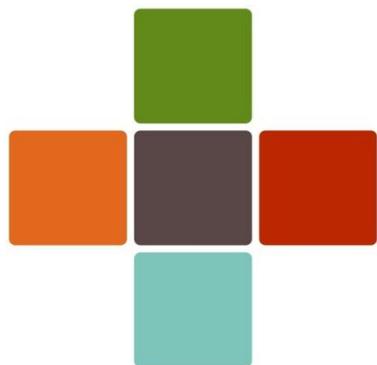


July 2017



www.eccc.org.za

The Challenge

East Claremont Congregational Church Newsletter

A gospel community on mission

Minister

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From the editor

Dear Friends

In recent weeks, Cape Town has been held in the grip of one of the worst droughts this area has known. This came to an abrupt end when a severe storm brought high winds, heavy seas, and untold destruction to property while the rain poured down all around. For many of us, it was an answer to prayer to see the rain. No doubt this storm was not met with as much gladness by those people who have no homes, no warmth, no comforts such as those we take for granted.

The unexpected storm is a part of the life experience.

During the ministry of Jesus, there were lots of unexpected moments. Some of those unexpected moments were very difficult.

Matthew 8

'Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

It's very much an illustration of life. No matter how bad the unexpected storm, the unexpected crisis or grief point, you'll get through it. You move through it. It's painful, it's not what you had planned on dealing with today, but you'll get through it. Life keeps going. Survivors put the pieces back together, and rebuild.

The key to surviving life's storms - all the unexpected things that can toss us around - is having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. As surely as the disciples needed to be in the boat with Jesus, you've got to have a living, breathing, relevant relationship with Jesus. You have that, you'll be ok.

So the question today isn't about whether or not the next storm is coming. It is coming. No doubt about it. The real question is this: Are you ready?

For all those travelling during the holidays, may the light and love of Jesus be with you.

Love Linda

From the study:

Why You WILL Join the Wrong Church

The following excellent article was originally published in 9marks.org¹. In light of our sermon series in the Sermon on the Mount, particularly the sermon “Covenant and Marriage: God’s Answer to Divorce – Matt 5:31-32”², I thought that the parallels with church membership were an amazing insight!

“The most read New York Times article from 2016 had nothing to do with politics, culture wars or comic book movies. Instead, the most-read article of 2016 was all about commitment. The piece, titled “Why You Will Marry the Wrong Person³,” was written by Alain de Botton. In it, De Botton takes shots at our culture’s idea that the ultimate foundation for commitment in marriage is romantic affection, that feeling of compatibility that means the other person will finally fulfil my needs and make me truly happy.

We all know this is misguided, so much so that De Botton predicts every married person will eventually find inadequacies so severe in their spouse that it will prompt them to ask, “Did I marry the wrong person?” He humorously notes, the relational arc of a marriage leans away from idealistic romantic sizzle as “maddening children...kill the passion from which they emerged.”

CHURCH AND OUR CULTURE

As I read De Botton’s article, I couldn’t help but see how much of our culture’s view of love and commitment mirrors how many Christians view church membership. Many Christians’ broken relationships with their churches resemble patterns of the divorce culture and its attendant assumptions about authority, love and compatibility.

Almost every Christian knows what it’s like to question whether they joined the “right church.” After an initial “honeymoon stage,” we begin to see our church’s problems with greater clarity than we see its strengths. The sermons start to seem too intellectual, or not intellectual enough. The church begins budgeting for ministries that don’t seem deserving of the dollar figure on the spreadsheet. The small groups don’t meet our needs in the ways we’d hoped.

More personally, the needs of other church members begin to encroach increasingly on our own personal freedoms. Some members sin against us - even without knowing just how deeply we’ve been wounded. Without even realizing it’s happening, we begin to wonder whether our local assembly is the “right” place for us. Of course, we remind ourselves that there’s no such thing as a perfect church - something we’ve even told our fellow church members. And yet, we can’t help but grapple with the nagging question: “Did I join the wrong church?”

“DID I JOIN THE WRONG CHURCH?”

The problem with this question is that it assumes church life shouldn’t be hard. It assumes the “honeymoon stage” should continue in perpetuity or that something has gone awry if we experience significant disappointment or hurt from our relationships with other members or the church’s leadership.

But these assumptions reveal a deep and unthinking commitment to consumerism: Only if the perks of membership outweigh its inconveniences will we think it’s worth it to stick it

¹ <https://www.9marks.org/article/why-you-will-join-the-wrong-church/>

² <http://eccc.org.za/sermons/covenant-and-marriage-gods-answer-to-divorce-matt-531-32/>

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/29/opinion/sunday/why-you-will-marry-the-wrong-person.html>

out. Regrettably, many Christians seem trapped in a perpetual cycle of this type of cost-benefit analysis.

I've found that Christians most often push eject on their membership not because they're upset at the church's budget or because they disagree on matters of polity. Instead, Christians leave their churches for the same reason people leave their marriages: a lack of relational depth and affection. In other words, many Christians leave their churches because they just don't seem compatible with the church or because the relationships leave them feeling a little dry.

Personal relationships, however, were never meant to serve as the foundation for our sense of church commitment. If we pursue relationships as the foundation of our belonging, we're more likely to be inescapably trapped in the consumerism and "met-needs" mentality at the heart of our divorce culture. However, instead of valuing consumerism, the Bible roots our membership in the idea of a covenant, which offers an infinitely superior alternative.

COVENANT PRECEDES COMMUNITY

Tim Keller notes in his book on marriage⁴ that a covenant "creates a particular kind of bond...a relationship far more intimate and personal than a merely legal, business relationship. Yet at the same time, it is far more durable, binding and unconditional than one based on mere feeling and affection. A covenant relationship is a stunning blend of law and love."

When the Bible speaks about the church, it refers to it as a covenant community. Church members aren't just part of a shared interest group. They're covenanted to one another by a sacred promise to oversee one another's membership in the kingdom and faithfulness to King Jesus (Matt. 18:15–20). The New Testament unfolds the details of that sacred promise: We regularly gather together (Heb. 10:24–25), bear one another's burdens and sorrows (Gal. 6:2), encourage one another (Heb. 3:12–14), pray for one another (Jas. 5:16), and forgive one another (Col. 3:13). Many churches helpfully formalize these biblical instructions into a church covenant⁵, a set of promises members make to one another when they enter into membership.

These covenant obligations are the foundations of our church commitment and should function as the backbone to church life. Covenant precedes community. We might even say covenant creates community. The covenant promises members make to one another blossom into the life-giving relationships our hearts crave.

Rooting commitment in our covenant promises doesn't mean that church relationships are nothing but soulless duty. Instead, covenant commitments are the food that nourishes our relationships with other members. The more we hold ourselves to our covenant promises, the more our relationships blossom and endure through seasons of difficulty. Again, as De Botton perceptively notes in his article, "Compatibility is an achievement of love, it must not be its precondition." The world argues that affection is pre-requisite to commitment. But the biblical picture is actually quite the opposite: Commitment and service create affection.

I'm amazed at how this principle works out even in my own life. A few years ago, after a couple in our church had a baby, my wife and I signed up through the church's member care ministry to bring them a meal. Our act of service, however, wasn't rooted in a pre-existing relationship with this couple. In fact, we barely knew them. We simply wanted to be faithful to our covenant promises to "bear one another's burdens." Yet that service, rooted in our covenant commitment, ultimately blossomed into a sweet friendship between

⁴ <http://www.timothykeller.com/books/the-meaning-of-marriage>

⁵ <https://www.9marks.org/article/do-we-really-need-church-documents/>

our two families. We weren't expecting a relationship to bloom, but that's what happens when you hold yourself to covenant promises, even with people you barely know.

COVENANTS CARRY YOU THROUGH SUFFERING

The reason God roots the most important relationships in the world - like marriage and church membership - in covenants is to ensure they endure through fire. Have you ever noticed how traditional marriage vows were designed to ensure couples prepare to love one another well in the midst of suffering? Couples pledge themselves to one another even in "poverty" and "sickness" until parted by death.

This same expectation of future trials also marks the promises church members make to one another. We pledge to "bear one another's burdens," (Gal. 6:2) and patiently bear with and forgive the sins of our brothers and sisters who wrong us (Col. 3:13; Eph. 4:32). If we make our covenant commitments the ground of our life and relationships in the church, we come to expect the rough patches and prepare to face them with godliness.

While our affections for our church and its members can be fickle, easily dissipating as soon as circumstances shift unfavourably, our covenant commitments never fade. As Keller notes, covenants are by their very nature oriented toward the future. They "are not a declaration of present love but a mutually binding promise of future love." In some sense, the whole point of a covenant is to pledge our love and fidelity for the rough times ahead. Thus, covenants carry us through suffering. Once more, De Botton incisively notes, "Choosing whom to commit ourselves to is merely a case of identifying which particular variety of suffering we would most like to sacrifice ourselves for."

FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, STICK WITH THE "WRONG" CHURCH

Joining a church, like seeking a spouse, is daunting. Loving others makes us vulnerable and committing ourselves to a church immerses us in the needs of other sinners. Eventually, every congregation will find a way to get under our skin, frustrate us or even wound us - and we will do the same to them.

Our relationships will ebb and flow, as will our affection for the church. But the solution is not always looking for a better fit. Instead, we renew our passion and reignite our sense of belonging by holding ourselves to our membership covenant - sacred promises that bind even the "wrong" people together."

God bless,
Grant



Minister's memo

Please would you remember the following people in your prayers:

- Those facing cancer: Cailin Philips (John and Kate's daughter), Maureen Ditchfield, John Ainscow, Fred Ross, Ron Wilson, Jaqui Sterrenberg, Gill Greer, Peter Scott, Ron Wilson and each of their families
- Those whom we visit with communion: Sue Herringer
- David van Huffel – feeling weak and dizzy at times
- Those who are sick with winter colds and flu
- Bianca Hagar – ENT operation in July



WHEN FATIGUE THREATENS YOU

'They exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!'" Mark 1:37

It has been said that guilt is the driving force behind much of our weariness: 'Every guilt-driven "Yes" means a "No" to something important.

Every day holds twenty-four hours, and as gifted as we are at multi-tasking, there are concrete limits to what we can get done in any given day... We routinely neglect the top priorities of our lives. We're irritable and impatient with those we love. We forfeit our need for sleep. We pass through many days oblivious to the presence of God.' Can you recognise these things in yourself?

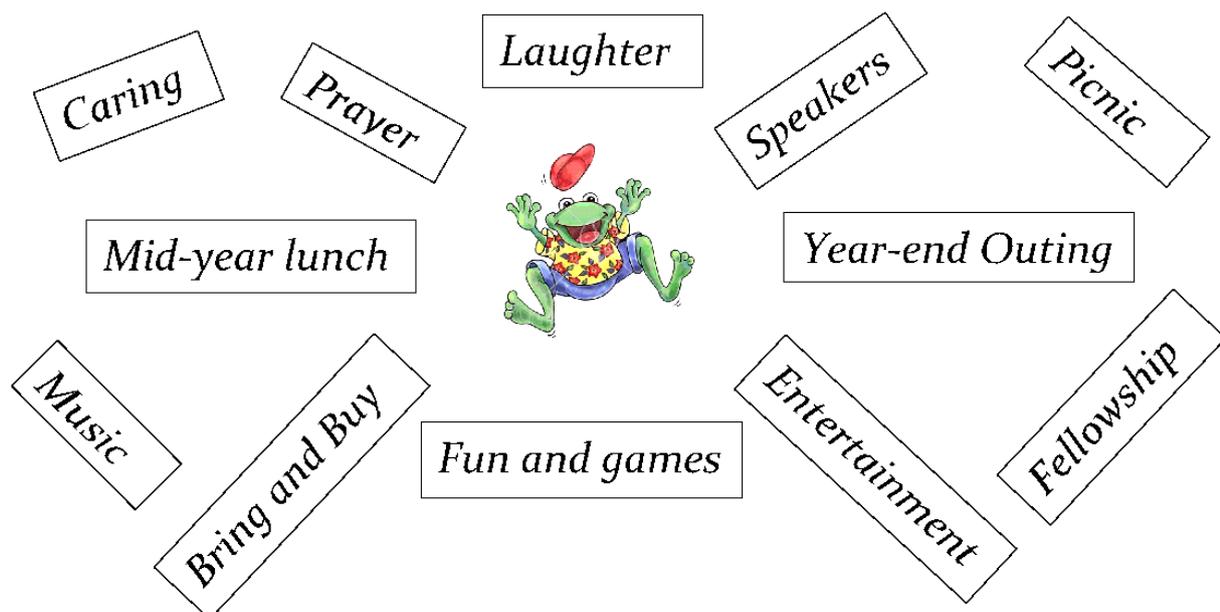
When word got out that Jesus had healed Peter's mother-in-law, a crowd gathered and He ministered to them late into the night. Early the next morning when He slipped away to a quiet place to pray, the disciples went looking for Him. 'When they found Him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" But note Jesus' response: **'Let us go somewhere else.'**

He chose to be Spirit-led, not guilt-driven. Before assuming you've been called to meet every need that arises, it's okay to say, 'Let me pray about it and get back to you.' Then pray, listen carefully and make your decision based on how you answer this question: Will saying 'yes' to this request mean having to say 'no' to something else that's important? It's essential to recognise what you've been called to do for the season of life you're in; it takes honesty, humility and courage to take a consistent line.

When you face a situation you know will put you on overload, even if you're willing to pay the price, are you willing to commit your family to pay the price with you? Think about it.

Kerrin Begg

SOCIAL MORNING



Join us at our monthly get-togethers from January to November (refer to the Church Calendar for dates and times or contact Anne Snyders on (021) 671-8732)



Light at the End of the Tunnel

We all know times when we have felt like being in a cold, mouldy, dark tunnel. It feels that in that place in time there is no way out. But with the words of Anne Lammott “hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: You don’t give up.”

You don’t give up and you cling to the promises of the Bible.

Wait, Israel, for God. Wait with hope. Hope now; hope always! (Psalm 131:3, MSG)

Because it has been said “God is the only one who can make the valley of trouble a door of hope.” That is so true. God can and God will lead us out of the pit.

Rick Warren states “What gives me the most hope every day is God’s grace; knowing that his grace is going to give me the strength for whatever I face, knowing that nothing is a surprise to God.”

Nothing is a surprise to God.
Nothing is unknown to God.
Nothing is hidden from God.

We can rest assured that God is in control and will lead us into the light, into the future full of hope.

This is God’s Word on the subject: **“As soon as Babylon’s seventy years are up and not a day before, I’ll show up and take care of you as I promised and bring you back home. I know what I’m doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. “When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I’ll listen.” When you come looking for me, you’ll find me. “Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I’ll make sure you won’t be disappointed.” (Jeremiah 29: 10-13, MSG)**

No matter what is going on in your life: Don’t worry! God has the last word. Billy Graham assures **“I’ve read the last page of the Bible. It’s all going to turn out all right.” Let’s cling on to the promises of the Bible and believe that there really is light at the end of the tunnel!**

We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go. (Hebrews 6:18, MSG)

Gracious God,
 Thank you that your promises are valid and good.
 Thank you for never letting go of us.
 Give us hope, strength and peace
 so we can hang on when the ride gets rough.
 Let us feel your presence in the midst of hardships.
 Change the desperate feelings into
 joy, hope and peace in you.
 In Jesus' name,
 Amen

If you're in a mouldy tunnel right now, hang on tight: God is with you and there will be light!



Motor vehicle workshop – all types of services carried out;
 bodywork repairs and resprays; vehicle rebuilds, engine
 overhauls, accident claims, decals, electrical faults.
 Contact Eddie Sterrenberg 0832901301; 021 5115753.



How will I know when the Lord is testing me?

The truth is you will not always know when you are being tested by the Lord. Job didn't know that what he was going through was a test until he came out of it. Though it was hard he never lost his integrity, he never sinned against God or made accusations about him.

Have
 Faith
 in
 GOD

The Lord will not always tell us when we are tested, but when he is testing us he will give us the strength to pass the test. And guess what? He will never test you beyond what you are able to bear or to endure (1 Corinthians 10:13 : ***“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it”***)

The best thing is to regard everything as a test. Every trial, every time someone does or says something to you that they shouldn't or tries to get you upset or to respond in a negative way. Try to have faith in God. Having and maintaining faith in God in times of trials will not always be easy and for some of us faith doesn't come very easily, but you have to start training yourself to have faith if you want to live in victory each day.

You will not always know but one way you can know when your faith is being tested is when something happens that should cause you to let go of God, give up on life or your dreams, curse God, or stop believing in God. None of us likes to be tested, but God is not trying to destroy us or give us a bad day - everything he does is for a reason. Pass the test no matter how small - go through your trials and come out victorious.

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

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**.

Bless-a-Baby – on-going collection of baby clothes for young unmarried mothers unable to provide warm clothing for their baby to leave the hospital in. Contact Rory or Linda Attwood

GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU

'Give all your worries...to God, for he cares about you.' 1 Peter 5:7

Think about the things you worried about last year, or even last week. How many came to pass? Statistically, 10 percent at most!

And did all your worrying make them better or worse? And what about the physical and emotional toll that worry is taking on you?

Dr. Charles Mayo, founder of the famous Mayo Clinic, said, 'Worry negatively affects the circulation, the heart, the glands, and the whole nervous system. It profoundly affects your health. I have never known a person who died from overwork, but many who died from worry.' So when are you going to face up to the fact that you worry too much, and do something about it?

'What can I do?' you ask. The Bible says, 'Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.' By committing each day to the Lord, you are trusting Him to go before you and work things out for the best. It's the only way to live! Worry doesn't work. It's like a rocking chair; it will give you something to do and keep you going, but it won't get you anywhere! Life is too big for any of us to handle alone.

So when worry comes to prey on your mind, attack it with the promises of God. Go ahead, bring your fears to God and watch them shrivel and die: '...It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the centre of your life' (Philippians 4:7 TM).

George Muller said, **'The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety.'**

Thoughts for the month

"Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples."

Psalm 96:3

Most worshippers have no problem belting out praises to God on Sunday morning but seize up when it comes to sharing Jesus during the week with those they encounter.

Singing praise songs is easier than sharing the gospel. But both are important forms of worship. The difference between them is risk.

Is this brand of worship worth the risk? Is it worth getting mocked or marginalized? When we worship God by sharing the message of his Son to those who don't know him we are seeking to build his heavenly choir with new members. As the Apostle Paul wrote, **"All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God."** 2 Corinthians 4:15

Learn how to share your faith and then do it.

Sing loudly on Sunday morning with your praise songs. But also belt out the good news with your life and lips everyday to everyone around you.

Let's not just be Sunday morning worshippers!

Can I get an "amen"?

The Flower roster is on the notice board at the back of the Church. Please note the dates and arrange a swap if you cannot provide flowers on your day.



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 lmattwood2@gmail.com and we'll ensure you get your birthday wish.



Congratulations for Birthdays go to the following folk in July :

10 Barbara Anderson
15 Debbie Hill
16 Steve Bassingthwaighte
19 Shirreen Attfield
22 Beryl Fouche
24 Sharon Nixon
27 Eddie Sterrenberg



Anniversaries in July:

04 John & Merle Kotze
27 Eddie & Jaqui Sterrenberg
30 Peter & Barbara Anderson

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

Flower Roster

02 July	06 August
09 July B Anderson	13 August Coral Shortt
16 July Anne Snyders	20 August Marlene Adriaanse
23 July Bev Maxwell	27 August
30 July	

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
Regional Representative			
Secretary	G Laubscher	H: 021 671 0862 W: 021 671 7067	
Min Secretary (church)		021 671 2483	082 4571427
Min Secretary (deacons)			
Treasurer & Tithing	B Wehri	021 671 5474	
Children's Church Superintendent	K Begg	H: 021 685 2293	082 7719172
Youth Pastor			
Challenge Editor	L. Attwood	021 686 8578	
Social Morning & Craft class	A Snyders	021 671 8732	
Mission awareness / Outreach	J Sterrenberg	021 558 8265	083 461 8147
Pastoral care	P & B Anderson	021 671 4688	083 422 3490
Flowers	Coral Shortt		082 956 6559
Teas / Hiring of hall	G Greer	021 671 1664	
Library	B Anderson	021 671 4688	082 438 9877
Worship Groups	Mike Begg	021 685 2293	082 928 7620
Community Groups	Che Matthews	021 671 6231	082 779 5235
Birthdays & anniversaries	M van Rensburg	021 671 2809	082 673 1826
Love Loaves	W Kalis	021 762 7215	082 575 7169
Cleaning Dept	C Meyer	021 671 5908	
Property Steward & Memorial plaques	T Adriaanse	021 7974634	0839833650
Garden	R de Villiers	021 671 5658	084 9833753
Counselling	Pat Scott	021 7133 121	0795051562
Prayer Ministry	Linda Harrower	021 671 1303	
Organ	B Anderson Joy Ross	021 671 4688 021 696 6105	082 438 9877 082 536 7103

ECCC banking details

(for direct deposits):

Account name: East Claremont Congregational Church

Bank: First National Bank

Account number: 50170468844

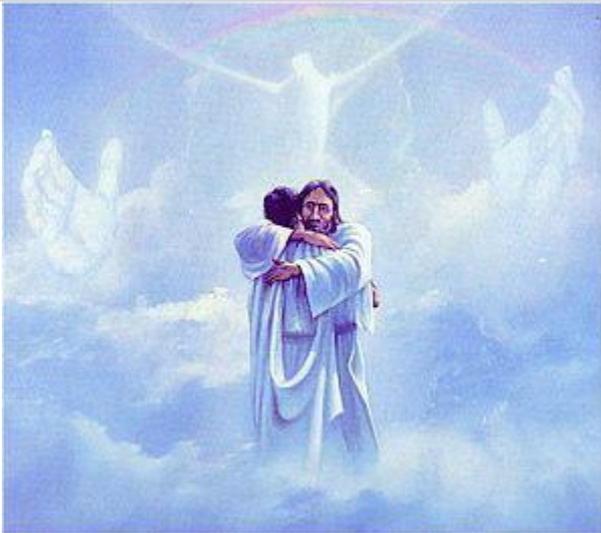
Clearing Code (Branch code): 201509

Account type: Current account



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 Community Group questions for the coming week there.

You can also **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. To have your own personal pdf copy emailed to you, just send a request by email to the editor, who will put you on the mailing list!



What Is Heaven Like?

By Ron Boatwright

Jesus says, "In My Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:2-3).

Heaven will be a mansion like we have never seen before. "We have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven" (2 Corinthians 5:1-2). We should be looking forward to going to Heaven. "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body" (Philippians 3:20-21). Heaven is described as "The city had no need for the sun or moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it" (Revelation 21:23).

Heaven will always be pure. "But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life" (Revelation 21:27). There will be no evil people in Heaven.

Heaven is "an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:4). We do not earn Heaven, but we inherit it by being a faithful child of God.

In Heaven "God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4).

There will be no tears or crying in Heaven because there will be nothing there to cause them. There will never be another sad moment because there will be nothing but joy and happiness. In Heaven there will be no funerals or cemeteries because people there will live forever, "In the land where we never grow old". There will be no pain, sickness or hurt in Heaven because we will have an immortal body like the Lord's body. As humans beings we cannot even begin to understand the glories of Heaven even if we were given a lengthy description. The only way we will understand how wonderful Heaven is going to be is to see it for ourselves.

Let's make sure we go to Heaven and not Hell.



THE HANDY CORNER

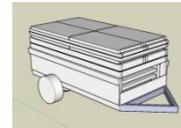
GENT'S HAIRSTYLIST - Rosemary Hacha - 021 761 0934/084 846 2824
LADIES' & GENTS' HAIR STYLIST - Yvonne Legg - 021 671 5908
BUYING & SELLING OF MOTOR CARS, BAKKIES & LDV's - Ron Wilson - 084 608 8925
SELLING OR BUYING A HOME? Diane Hosty - 082 775 2777. (Referrals paid)
ELECTRICIAN/HANDYMAN - Clyde Oliphant - 021 697 5626/072 643 4949
ELDERLY/HOUSE/PETS-SITTING - Janine Alger - 021 683 0598/082 789 1720
ALTERATIONS / KNITTING - Connie Meyer - 021 6715908
HOUSE-SITTING / INCLUDES PETS, POOL & GARDEN - Ron Wilson - 0846088925 for quote
MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIRS, RESPRAYS & REBUILDS - WORKSHOP IN PAARDEN EILAND -
Eddie Sterrenberg 083 2901301
UPDATE YOUR WILL, ETC - Gail Bergmann - Tel: 021674506/Fax: 0216711225
E-mail : gbergmann@telkomsa.net



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

HIRING OF CHURCH TRAILER

R50 per day (Donation)
Contact : Peter Anderson
Telephone : 021671-4688 Cell : (083) 422 3490



DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE BIBLE MEANS?

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means? The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, " It stands for
'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE RAIN

It's Morning, Jesus
There you are, seated at the right hand of God the Father.
The three of you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
have and do exercise Sovereign reign over all the universe
Thank you for the water that fell from the sky today
to quench the parched earth
to give drink to the thirsty trees
to fill the dams and rivers
to swell the lake
to replenish the wells

Thank you, heavenly Father, for the gifts you give us all
For the often forgotten gifts of health
For the joy of sports
For the ability to walk and run

I saw a jogger today, Lord, running in the rain
His legs were stretched out
His back was straight
His arms pumping
His lungs breathing

What a gift!
O' that we may run in this day with the gifts we have from you,
the passing gifts we take for granted.
O' that we may use the gifts of heart, soul, mind and body,
to exalt you, Lord Jesus.

Keep me aware today of all I have been given and all with which I am
entrusted
This body is on loan, today, from you.

Amen



July 2017

The month at a glance



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31					01	02 The Minister - Communion
03	04	05	06 Craft Class @ 1.30 p.m. Prayer Meeting @ 7.00 pm	07	08	09 The Minister
10	11 Deacons Meeting @ 7.30 p.m.	12	13 Prayer Meeting @ 7.00 pm	14	15	16 Guest Preacher Rev Bill Webster
17	18	19	20 Prayer Meeting @ 7.00 pm	21	22	23 The Minister
24 CC teachers meeting	25	26	27 Social Morning at 10 a.m. Prayer Meeting @ 7.00 pm	28	29 Com leaders breakfast	30 Roche van Wyk - Learn to Earn

What's happening each week:

Sunday - 9:15

Morning Family Service with Children's Church

Community groups

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Morning and evening

(Community groups and Youth groups take a break during the school holidays)

Prayer meeting in Church Lounge

Thursday - 19:00

Friday – Junior Youth

Friday – Senior Youth

19:30-22:00

